

CITY OF WEST HAVEN FIRE DEPARTMENT ALLINGTOWN
February 4, 2020
Minutes

A Meeting of the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT.

Present were Commissioners Iris Diaz, Andrea Palumbo, and Frederick Brown. Also present was Deputy Chief Esposito. Commissioner Nunley came in at 6:48 and Commissioner Panza came in at 7:20 p.m.

Commissioner Diaz called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

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1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Business Manager Brooks called the roll and declared a quorum. Absent were commissioners Nunley, Panza, and Corcoran.

Commissioner Diaz asked Commissioner Palumbo if she was going to accept the position of secretary that she was nominated for last month in her absence at the January 7th meeting, Commissioner Palumbo stated that she did not want the position.

When Commissioner Nunley joined the meeting, Commissioner Diaz asked if she was going to accept the position of Vice Chair that she was nominated for in her absence at the January 7th meeting, Commissioner Nunley accepted the position.

Commissioner Diaz asked if John Ordazzo and Chief John Carew could be added to the agenda under the executive session. Commissioner Brown made a motion to add John Ordazzo and Chief John Carew to the agenda under the executive session, seconded by Commissioner Palumbo and approved unanimously.

3. Approval of January 7, 2020 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the January 7, 2020 meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Palumbo and approved unanimously.

4. Public Session

Margaret Krzeminski of 1 Robart Street, West Haven, CT asked about the bill for RWA (\$88,181.05 for Public Fire Use). She asked if this was for once a year. Business Manager Brooks explained that there are two payments a year. Margaret commented that this was quite high. She asked if there had been any increases in the rate. Business Manager Brooks explained that yes there were and there is going to be another one in January of 2021. Margaret asked about the Pershing bill (\$8,589.38). Business Manager Brooks explained that this is the amount put into the pension investment and her 401K account by the city. Margaret asked about the bill for the West Haven Fire Dept (\$3,264.89 superintendent work). Acting Chief Esposito replied that this for Tony Capuana to do various repairs to the trucks. Margaret asked if there was anyone from the department that could do some of this work. Acting Chief Esposito explained that FF Peter Redding is doing some things but he is not trained or qualified to do to many repairs. He can do some simple things and he keeps track of the repairs and when certain repairs need to be done. Margaret asked if the Quint would be paid off this year. Acting Chief Esposito replied that it would be. She asked if we would be looking for a new truck. Acting Chief Esposito explained that we would be and he also explained the repairs to E-2.

Commissioner Brown stated that E-2 would make a good spare apparatus. The spare MAC is a 1983. Margaret asked if anyone has approached asking to buy the Admiral Street building. Acting Chief Esposito replied a couple of years ago but nothing since.

5. Finance: Reviewed and accepted the list of processed invoices for January.
6. Communications: None
7. Report of the Chief: Acting Chief Esposito gave verbal and written reports for January which will be kept on file.
8. Report of Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal: Deputy Chief Esposito gave verbal and written reports for January. Written reports will be kept on file.
9. Old Business: Parkview Commons Project-Acting Chief Esposito explained that they are moving right along. Getting the heat on.

Headquarters Issues-Kenneth Carney explained his role with the city. He is the Chair on the West Haven High School Committee. I'm glad to report the project is going very well. I'm an unpaid volunteer budget coordinator for the city and the liaison between the city and building repairs. I am here tonight to discuss your concerns on whether to put money into the Admiral Street station. We will discuss that a little later. So I want to educate you on how much a new firehouse would cost. To do that I brought plans for the Milford firehouse that was built about four years ago. It's 12,000 square feet. If you look at the firehouses going up in the state, they are about \$325.00 per square foot. The average size with the exception of the very large stations is 10,000 to 14,000 square feet. Then you have the cost of the land. To build a firehouse, one story that would be up to code for the Admiral Street station you're looking from anywhere of 3.2 million to 3.8 million dollars plus the land (about 3 acres). The existing firehouse was being sought after by Mr. Beckerman for 220-280K. The problem was there was no place to put the apparatus and the offices within the city. We looked at buildings on Forest Road. We looked at the old school. We looked at the Blake building and other buildings, nothing is affordable, and nothing works. So we told Beckerman that the firehouse is off the table. My suggestions are you have a pitched roof, so replace the roof. You have some re-pointing that needs to be done. We have buildings all over the city that need re-pointing; Washington School for an example. So my suggestion is you put money into the existing facility and at some point you will have to pursue a new firehouse. That's my tip. Brief conversation followed about the roof replacement. Ken stated if you don't replace that roof soon the rafter systems going to be taking a hit and more plywood will need to be replaced. Commissioner Diaz asked about the mold testing. Acting Chief Esposito replied that the second test was inconclusive. Ken responded that the only way to test for mold is by air testing. He explained how air testing is done. He doesn't believe the building has any mold. Commissioner Palumbo asked if there was any money from CDA to get the testing done. Acting Chief Esposito replied that we didn't ask. Until you close the roof up you are going to continue getting leaks. We know water creates mold. Ken stated that to re-point the front of the building it would cost about \$16,000. This is to have someone who is licensed. Acting Chief Esposito explained that it was supposed to get done last year. We were going to at least put up some temporary protective netting. We were ready to do that and things just stopped and there was no okay given to proceed. Now the back corner is starting to give way. I was up in there and there are two big cracks in the wall. Ken asked if we had the funds to do the work. Business Manager Brooks replied that there are some line items that we can transfer from to do the work this year. Ken responded if there was anything he could do to help us to let him know. Commissioner Diaz asked, so addressing these issues how should we go

forward with them. Who should we speak to? Ken explained the process of building a new firehouse. He stated that he doesn't see that happening for a few years. Commissioner Diaz asked how do we go forward with the repairs. Ken replied you go ahead and do the work. Brief conversation followed about a new firehouse.

Michael Last and I'd like to thank you for inviting me. I agree with what Mr. Carney said. It sounds like a new fire house at this point is not something that is going to happen overnight. It might be several years. It sounds like present building needs some immediate help. I'm hearing it's going to cost about 15k for a new roof and several thousand to fix the outside of the building to make sure the water doesn't get in and cause mold problems. With that said I'm looking at your budget for this year and I want to commend you because the Allingtown does not have a deficit anymore. You did a really, really good job. I just want to question. It looks like there's a 220K contingency in the budget and some of the other line items are positive or projected positive. Would you be looking to take action immediately and have those repairs done. I know you are going to be meeting with the Mayor and the council about next year's budget. My recommendation is if you have the money this year then you should get the work done in this year. I'm not sure what the situation budget wise for next year. It looks like your contingency and some of your line items are running positive. So I say if you are going to do then do it. Commissioner Diaz responded okay and we will look into it. Commissioner Panza asked if Allingtown has a surplus from their budget then where does that money go. Michael replied that because the Allingtown is a special taxation district, the money stays in the district. It would go into what they call the rainy day fund. It could stay there so if you needed it in future years. Your deficit stayed in your fund and any surpluses stayed in your fund. Commissioner Panza asked if there was a line item that they go into. Michael responded yes it's called a Fund Balance. None of the money goes outside of the district because it's paid by the residents of Allingtown.

Awards Ceremony –No discussion.

10. New Business: None

A motion was presented to close Regular Session at 7:20 p.m. and go into Executive Session by Commissioner Palumbo, seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously.

A motion was presented to close Executive Session and return into Regular Session at 7:54 pm. by Commissioner Palumbo, seconded by Commissioner Nunley and approved unanimously.

A motion was presented to adjourn by Commissioner Palumbo, seconded by Commissioner Diaz and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

All minutes are subject to the final approval of the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown Commissioners.

Minutes recorded by Business Manager Brooks