

Cromwell Fire District

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FIRE DISTRICT OFFICE
WATER DIVISION

FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Public Safety Tower Committee

Friday, September 6, 2019

10:00 AM

1 West Street
Cromwell, CT

Present: Commissioner Roger Rukowicz (Co-Chair), Police Chief Denise Lamontagne (Co-Chair), Donald Swanson (emeritus), Executive Director Julius Neto, Water Operations Manager Joseph Palmieri, Tower Manager Angel Alvarado, Fire Chief Michael Terenzio, Town Manager Anthony Salvatore and Commissioner Robert Donohue. Police Captain Kevin VanderSloot had an excused absence.

- I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM, by Co-Chairman Rukowicz.
- II. Approval of Agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Chief Lamontagne and unanimously approved to accept the agenda as submitted.
- III. Approval of the Minutes of May 17, 2019. A motion was made by Chief Lamontagne, seconded by Mr. Palmieri and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2019 Public Safety Tower Committee meeting as submitted. Town Manager Salvatore abstained.
- IV. Public Comment. There were no public comments to report. Co-Chairman Rukowicz noted that Rules for Public Comment had been established by the Board of Commissioners. He read them so that the Committee is aware of the Board's new procedures for their meetings. The rules will be printed at the bottom of every District Board and Committee meeting agenda.
- V. Old Business
 - A. AC Unit Replaced in Room 1. Mr. Alvarado reported that the A/C unit in Room 1 has been replaced. He distributed copies of a photograph of the new unit. A copy is attached to the minutes on file in the Fire District Office. He added that the District did go out to bid to replace the old unit, and the lowest bid was Cromwell Energy. The old unit was a barred, wall mounted, 3 ton unit. The Committee approved \$10,950 to purchase the replacement unit. Cromwell Energy could not get the same type of unit that had been there. The solution was an external unit that did not take up a lot of space but was the same cost. It was installed in early July.
 - B. Unused CFD-Owned Antennas and Cables/Status. Mr. Alvarado explained that there were some antennas and cables at the tower site that were not being used. Because the District is doing a radio upgrade, a load factor study had to be done to see what capacity there was to install the District's equipment and remove equipment that was no longer being used. Six lines were removed that were no longer being used as well as five antennas. The load study done after that puts the load factor at 97 percent.

- C. CFD Radio Project Status. Mr. Alvarado reported the equipment was put up after the load study was done. It moved the District forward to getting the radio system migrated over to the new system. Everything that is going on the tower for the Fire District project is on the Tower now. It was discussed at the last meeting that a lot of providers are interested in upgrading to 5G which had the District reviewing the global structure. This topic was to be discussed under New Business. Mr. Alvarado has contacted the engineering company ACom to see if the load capacity could be increased by 20 percent. They were able to achieve that in a study. They have submitted that study to a vendor that has been used in the past to reinforce the structure. Mr. Alvarado is waiting for the price of the steel. He has reached out to Attorney Deneen to set up a meeting with providers to get them involved in financing the cost to reinforce the structure. He added that tentatively he has already received some responses from providers that they are willing to contribute to the cost of the reinforcement. The reinforcement would bring down the load capacity to 81.8 percent.
- D. Load Study Completed. This had been discussed under Item B. It was noted that the study put the load factor at 97 percent.
- E. Portable Toilet. Mr. Alvarado reported that they were finally able to remove the portable toilet that had been taking up space at the tower site forever. Mr. Alvarado could not get any of the vendors to claim it back. The Water Operations Manager and some of his staff were able to take it to the dump. Mr. Palmieri reported that he was able to get Cahill to pump it out, and they took it with them. There was a rumor that it originally belonged to them anyway.
- F. Additional Storage Needs. Mr. Alvarado noted that a chain of events needs to happen before storage needs can be met. Middletown has established antenna equipment for the CFD project and upgrading their system so they should be out of Room 1 by October. This will create the space in Room 1 for the LTR which is co-owned by the District and the Town. It is currently in Room 3, but will be moved to room 1. The Hyterra system that is tied into the combiner in Room 3 which was specifically for Marcus will be removed and extracted from the Tower. All the moving around will be done by the end of the year. The LTR will be moved to Room 1 which will allow plenty of room in Room 3 for the Fire Department's new system.
- G. Middletown Radio Project Status. This was discussed previously during this meeting. Mr. Alvarado reported that Middletown is just about done. All their equipment is up and running. They are at the back end of the handoff from the vendor. There is a grace period between the vendor and the buyer with the parties signing off that the equipment is fully licensed and fully operational before the project can be closed out. They are optimistic that they should be able to get their equipment out by October. Chief Swanson reported on a tour he had of the Nike site in Middletown that was given by the CT Fire Chief's Association. He encouraged Committee members to take a tour. Tours are arranged through the Middletown Fire Chief.
- H. Marcus Radio/Status. Mr. Alvarado reported that the LTR system is co-owned by the Town and the Fire Department. As the owners they will move that system into Room 1. At that time the Hyterra radios can be removed from the Tower unless Marcus wants to enter into a contract to lease out space and become a tenant officially.
- I. Generator Maintenance. Mr. Alvarado reported there was a minor issue on the generator on their quarterly inspection. A triple charger had to be replaced as well as a battery. Mr. Alvarado added this item to the agenda because it was considered old business under maintenance.
- J. Discussion of AC in Room 3. Mr. Alvarado explained that this item as well as item F. should belong under New Business. Since the break in the original A/C unit, a portable unit was needed to sustain the

temperature in the room. This became difficult because the unit was creating more heat so an outdoor storage shed was created. The units were placed in there so there would be no issues in the room regarding access. It was noted the storage shed took the place of the portable toilet that was located outside. There are two units located in room 3. One of which is running at half speed. That replacement will be revisited during next year's budget cycle.

VI. New Business

- A. Structural Reinforcement. This is to increase the full capacity of the full structure as discussed earlier. Currently it is at 97 percent. ACom has provided a report that states they can get that percentage reduced to 81.8 percent. Mr. Alvarado is waiting for the final numbers. Once the final numbers are received, they can be presented to the providers to cover the cost of the reduction as well as the generator as discussed in a previous meeting. Mr. Neto identified the item as one Capital Improvement—the Generator as well as additional infrastructure augmentation. This will improve the generator site as well as improve the load capacity. He added that the fuel used will continue to be diesel. No additional construction will be necessary. The platform is adequate for the size of the generator. Once Mr. Alvarado receives some numbers, he will pass those along to Attorney Deneen to set up some meetings with the vendors. The Co-Chairman asked Mr. Alvarado to provide a list to vendors to the committee members.

The Co-Chairman also asked for an update on the Nike site. Mr. Neto explained that the idea is to have a voting site at the Nike site as part of the radio upgrade. They have asked Attorney Deneen to put the word out there to the marketplace that within the town land there is potential for putting up a tower near the Nike site behind the new development. Holy Apostles is also another site being considered as a voting site. They are interested in generating revenue. The Nike site is part of the radio communication upgrade where the District along with the property owners would like to put up an antenna. There are schedules that are not being adhered to so there have been delays in any negotiating of site location near the Nike site. There was discussion regarding site locations. Town Manager Salvatore suggested putting up a voting site at the Country Squire Clubhouse.

- VII. Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made by Chief Lamontagne, seconded by Mr. Palmieri and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 AM.

Respectfully submitted,


Roger Rukowicz, Co-Chairman

Nancy Deegan
Recording Secretary
9-11-19