

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, March 6, 2020

10:00 AM

1 West Street
Cromwell, CT

Present: Commissioners Roger Rukowicz (Co-Chair), Robert Donohue, Police Chief Denise Lamontagne, Town Manager Anthony Salvatore, Executive Director Julius Neto, Donald Swanson (Emeritus), Tower Manager Angel Alvarado, Water Operations Manager Joseph Palmieri and Fire Chief Michael Terenzio.

- I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM, by Co-Chair & Commissioner Roger Rukowicz.
- II. Approval of Agenda. A motion was made by Chief Lamontagne, seconded by Donald Swanson and unanimously approved to accept the Agenda as submitted.
- III. Approval of Minutes of December 6, 2019. A motion was made by Chief Lamontagne, seconded by Commissioner Donohue and unanimously approved to accept the Public Safety Tower Committee meeting minutes of December 6, 2019, as submitted.
- IV. Public Comment. There were no public comments to report.
- V. Old Business
 - A. Reinforcement Project. Mr. Alvarado reported that as the Committee is aware, the District has been approached by providers to increase their capacity on the Tower. A study was done. They reached out to the providers to see if there was an interest in them contributing towards the reinforcement. They were able to vet out two providers currently. Sprint and T-Mobile are not in a position to do so which will exclude them from the reinforcement project. The District has worked with Verizon and AT&T. They are willing to support the full cost of the current reinforcement project. The project will still allocate space for the Tower owners (the District and the Town) to have additional capacity for future growth. The reinforcement project will put the Tower at 81% capacity. With the addition of AT&T's equipment and Verizon's equipment the total capacity will be at 91.3%.

The Executive Director explained that T-Mobile and Sprint are not participating in this project financially. Therefore, they will be locked out in terms of being given any more capacity on the Tower. The amount of capacity remaining will be reserved for the

District and the Town's use. Mr. Alvarado stated that this is a preliminary report. He reiterated the Executive Director's point that if a provider is not part of the initial process, they will not be allowed to expand their network. Mr. Neto added that there are no more reinforcements that can be done to the Tower without creating a new structure with more capacity or a monopole. Mr. Alvarado explained that if Sprint and T-Mobile want additional capacity in the future, they would have to fund the direction of the monopole that would be on the same property. There was discussion that if the District and Town are at that point in the future, they may need to go higher with the Tower. If a monopole is considered, it would have to be approved by Planning and Zoning. The reinforcement project will take approximately one month to complete.

- B. Generator Project. Mr. Alvarado reported that the poles have been received, and everything is ready to go. They were planning to use the Tower Reserve Fund money that was contributed by the providers to purchase and replace the existing generator. If the District moves forward, the reserve fund will be depleted. Mr. Alvarado was looking for approval from the Committee to get the generator up and running. He reported there is \$122,000 in the fund currently. The current generator is 19 years old, and over the last year it has had more repairs than they have seen over the life of the generator. Currently there are three ATS's on the existing generator so that T-Mobile and Sprint are not covered on backup power. On the initial investigation they noticed there was cross-patching between circuits. One of the problems is minor overheating issues over the course of the year. Some parts needed replacing such as hosing. It was noted that the life expectancy of the generator is 20 – 25 years. If the generator went down due to a power outage, the District and PD would not have radios. Although this has been approved at the last meeting, Mr. Alvarado wanted to make sure everyone is on the same page that there will be very little left in the Tower Reserve fund. The cost of the project is \$90,667 of the \$122,000 that is in the fund. The Town Manager asked if the project had gone out to bid. It had, and the company chosen was Generac/Huntington Power. This company also services all the Water Division generators. Currently all the ATS's are not up to code, but the new generator will correct all the operational issues. The new generator will provide five ATS's, one for each provider including PD and FD. Mr. Alvarado would like to get this done sooner rather than later to prevent any potential outages.

A motion was made by Chief Lamontagne, seconded by Commissioner Donohue and unanimously approved to authorize Mr. Alvarado to use funds from the Tower Reserve fund for the replacement of the generator. Mr. Alvarado will get some dates to schedule the project and advise the Committee. He explained the job as the vendor providing an alternate power source to move the current circuits onto, take down the existing circuits, rewire everything, put the new generator in place, transfer everything back over to the main circuit and test for power outages. It should be completed within the next 3 months. Commissioner Rukowicz asked that Mr. Alvarado provide an update at the next meeting.

- C. Marcus Radio/Status. The Executive Director explained that they wanted to meet with some representatives from Marcus to have a discussion, but Mr. Neto failed to schedule a meeting with the Chief and Marcus. He will attempt to schedule something. What needs to be discussed is the status, what equipment they have and do they have any equipment they are using that is not supported or supporting the infrastructure of the Town. If they are using that site as a business enterprise, the District will offer them a chance to maintain their status by contributing financially to support the Tower. He added that the District knows where Marcus' equipment is, but they don't know how it is being used.

The District has looked at it and knows it is a lot of equipment with a small amount of service that the Town is using. That is as much information as they have.

- D. AC Unit/Room 3. Mr. Alvarado explained that this was discussed at the last meeting, and there was a formal approval to move forward. He thought that it was to be put on hold for post-budget season to get it up and running which would be July. His concern is that the weather has been getting warmer a lot sooner, so he would like to propose getting the air conditioning unit in sooner than July. Mr. Neto stated that he is on the same page, and added that the District is taking a chance keeping that unit with any type of backup because we could get into a jam with Building 3. Mr. Alvarado received a quote of \$5,585. That quote is for Room 3 which houses highway and public works' radios and Marcus. It was thought that if this was to happen before July as suggested, funds could be used from Tower Reserve if the project is done early. It is a 1 ½ ton mini-split.

A motion was made by Town Manager Salvatore, seconded by Chief Lamontagne and unanimously approved to appropriate \$5,585 for the air conditioning unit for Room 3.

- VI. Commissioners' Comments. Chief Lamontagne asked about the history of the Tower Improvement fund. The funds came from the providers. She asked if there has been any discussion about trying to rebuild it every year by having contributions from the Fire District and the Town. It was agreed that it was a good idea. Chief Terenzio asked if there was a formula or some way to determine a percentage for each year. The Town Manager clarified that there were contributions being made that somehow stopped. Funds have been used over the years for improvements. Mr. Alvarado will look into what percentage is being paid by the tenants for maintenance and repairs. They suggested \$5,000 each (5%) for the Town and District's contribution amount.

A motion was made by Chief Lamontagne, seconded by Donald Swanson and unanimously approved to have both the Fire District and the Town contribute \$5,000 annually to build up the Tower Improvement fund to begin this next fiscal year.

- VII. Public Comment. There were no comments to report.
- VIII. Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made by Chief Lamontagne, seconded by Town Manager Salvatore and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Rukowicz, Co-Chairman

Nancy Deegan
Recording Secretary
4-2-20