

Cromwell Fire District

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FIRE DISTRICT OFFICE
WATER DIVISION

FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS **Special Fire Operations Committee Meeting**

Monday, May 17, 2021

5:30 PM

**Coles Road Firehouse
105 Coles Road
Cromwell, CT**

Present: Commissioners David Colligan (Chairman), Charles Epstein and Robert Donohue. Also attending were Executive Director Julius Neto and Dispatch Supervisor Justin Lonergan.

Per Executive Order No. 7B, Governor Lamont has ordered and directed that in-person open meeting requirements be suspended. Therefore, the Fire Operations Committee meeting will be held via conference call. Members of the public may send questions or comments to meetings@cromwellfd.com on any agenda items.

- I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM, by Chairman Colligan.
- II. Approval of Agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Epstein, seconded by Commissioner Donohue and unanimously approved to accept the agenda as submitted. It was noted that because this is a "Special" Fire Operations Committee meeting, the agenda cannot be changed.
- III. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2021. A motion was made by Commissioner Donohue, seconded by Commissioner Epstein and approved 2 to 0 to accept the Fire Operations Committee meeting minutes of April 20, 2021, as submitted. Commissioner Donohue abstained.
- IV. Public Comment. Commissioner Epstein had a comment which was to have anyone listening ask everyone they know to come out and vote for the Fire District budget next week. It is important that people listen to what the vote is all about, and if anyone has any questions, they can be addressed that night. This is very important for Town services. The District needs equipment, personnel and training. All of that costs money. It was repeated that the Annual Budget meeting was being held next Monday, May 24, 2021, at 6:00 PM, in the bay at the Coles Road Firehouse.
- V. Communications Report. The Executive Director reported that the last site to be finished is the Nike site. There have been some challenges since Day 1. There has been a solution to every challenge. Currently there will be a solution within the next week, and the flag pole will be erected the following week. He should have photographs by the next Fire Operations

Committee meeting. Mr. Neto has asked the Fire Department to install a light on the flag pole so that the flag will not have to be taken down every day.

The Chairman asked the Dispatch Supervisor how things were progressing with the new radios and communications. Mr. Lonergan reported that the console programming has come to an end. There may be a couple of adjustments to make as things are fine tuned. There was another round of programming on the end user equipment--portables and mobiles which rectified a couple of things. There was some good feedback from the end users on the capabilities of the system and how things are working. The Nike site will improve things once it comes on line. Mr. Lonergan is working with the consultant and mutual aid agencies for MOU's for interoperability. That will continue for the next couple of months. They hope to have a final programming early in the fall. That will include the mutual aid partners and the State Interop. Plan. He added that they had to reprogram and fixed a couple of minor issues including the emergency button activation. That was a concern of both the Fire Chief and Mr. Lonergan. It was rectified with this final programming. The emergency will now activate on the current channel, communicate that information to all the other units on that same channel and back to Dispatch as well.

Mr. Lonergan has also been going to various trainings and communicating his feedback from the users to Norcom. They will continue to help those who are not using the radios correctly. They are monitoring with two different pagers and specifically not scanning on those two pagers. Norcom has been keeping up with the changes. Mr. Lonergan added that they have been doing training between the Communication Center and the Fire Department. Having Communication staff at trainings has been very helpful in getting questions answered and getting feedback from end users.

A motion was made by Commissioner Donohue, seconded by Commissioner Epstein and unanimously approved to accept the Communications Report as submitted.

- VI. Reports of Chief Officers. The Executive Director filled in for the Fire Marshal and Acting Fire Chief who were not able to be here. Mr. Neto distributed a chart for review which indicated the amount of inspections that were done during the last 4 years. Ray and Harold have been working diligently to get the inspections caught up.

The Executive Director discussed the New Haven fire that recently took place and the hoarding situation that existed within that dwelling that created additional barriers to the firefighters. As a result a firefighter lost his life. The Fire Marshal has an interest in these situations and is trying to stay ahead of them by documenting those situations in Red Alert. Mr. Neto suggested through this body to start a campaign on the Fire District website or start mailings to individuals that the District is aware have a potential to create a danger through hoarding. The Executive Director has discussed this with the Fire Marshal and wanted to share it with the Committee.

There will be a public education theme from the Fire Marshal's Office every three months or so on fire prevention and any and all things that could facilitate and improve the reaction of the Fire Department in a situation or a fire call.

The FMO is now fully engaged with the Town on the plans for the TPC. The tournament is scheduled for next month. There has been progress being made.

The Chairman suggested that a hoarding situation be assigned a code name so first responders are alerted before they get to the call. Mr. Lonergan noted that all the technology the Communication Center now has can set up alerts to pop up in addition to codes. Warnings can also be put on the CAD system.

There was discussion regarding the arrangements for the fallen New Haven firefighter and how Cromwell will be participating and assisting. The Executive Director will be coordinating getting the funeral arrangements out to the District employees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Donohue, seconded by Commissioner Epstein and unanimously approved to accept the Report of the Chief Officers as presented.

VII. Firefighter/EMT Staffing, Hiring and Response Capability. The Chairman wanted to have a discussion regarding the 7th firefighter or second ambulance, however, this discussion needs to involve the new Fire Chief who is not on board yet. The Chairman suggested tabling this item until the new Fire Chief is on board.

VIII. Old Business. There was no old business to discuss.

IX. New Business

A. Discussion and Update on Nike Site. This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

B. Discussion on Apparatus Replacement. The Chairman suggested tabling this item as well. The Executive Director suggested tabling this for a couple of months until the new Fire Chief is on board and can participate in the discussions. Once he is on board, he will be doing a full assessment of apparatus and the new Fire District budget should have been voted on by that time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Epstein, seconded by Commissioner Donohue and unanimously approved to table this item for a couple of months. However, if there is a need to assess replacement needs due to an emergency, this issue will be reviewed sooner than the two months.

C. Update and Discussion on Status of Volunteers and Part-Timers Non-Compliant with Training. The Executive Director had no new information to report, and the Fire Chiefs were not present to discuss this. The Chairman stated that the people that have not been compliant have been going to drill to get some of their training completed. There are still some people that need to do online training.

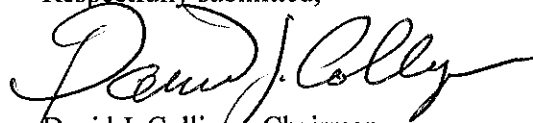
A motion was made by Commissioner Donohue, seconded by Commissioner Epstein and unanimously approved to table this issue.

X. Commissioners' Comments. Commissioner Epstein stated that our hearts go out to the New Haven Fire Department and their families. Our hearts go out to anyone that has a child that is a firefighter. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

XI. Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Donohue, seconded by Commissioner Epstein and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 PM.

CFD Fire Ops. Com. 5-17-21

Respectfully submitted,



David J. Colligan, Chairman

Nancy Deegan
Recording Secretary
6-15-21