

Cromwell Fire District

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FIRE DISTRICT OFFICE
WATER DIVISION

FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS **District Operations Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

6:00 PM

West Street Firehouse

1 West Street

Cromwell, CT

Present: Commissioners Lee Brow (President), Jason Hinnners (Vice President) and Charles Epstein (Secretary). Also attending was Executive Director Julius Neto, Fire Chief Jason Balletto and Commissioner Robert Donohue.

- I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM, by President Brow.
- II. Approval of the Agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Hinnners, seconded by Commissioner Epstein and unanimously approved to accept the agenda as presented.
- III. Public Comment. There were no public comments to report.
- IV. New Business
 - A. Discussion on COVID Response Recognition. The following items were brought up under discussion at the full Board of Commissioners' meeting this month regarding COVID response recognition for volunteers: Letter to the Editor, Post on Website, Dinner and Certificate of Appreciation, Pin and Patch. President Brow asked for input from the two officers.

Commissioner Epstein had suggested a challenge coin with a special message to signify the event being recognized. He was also in favor of the pin idea. It would be something they could pin to their uniform. There are some limitations in terms of cost. He liked the idea of a dinner/certificate of appreciation.

The President was in favor of a letter to the editor, posting it on the website and publishing it in the quarterly newsletter. He thought the dinner with certificate was easy to do. Pins and patches have to be ordered. The last time the President had looked into ordering that type of material, the minimum amount to an order was between 150 and 300 items. He did not think it was cost efficient to do that for 4 people. There is also a uniform policy. If people started putting different patches and pins on the uniform, it would go against policy.

There have been discussions about a challenge coin. The thought was to have two. One would be the Commission President's award of excellence and the other would be a full Board of Commissioners award of excellence. The President's award would be awarded

only for certain things. The full Board of Commissioners' award would be awarded for a variety of things.

Commissioner Hinnners discussed the fact that at some of his previous jobs, different types of clothing would be awarded to people for their assistance such as sweatshirts, T-shirts, jackets. It would be cheaper to set up rather than a pin or a patch. It would not be considered a part of the uniform, just a piece of apparel that identifies a specific event that the member participated in. The thought was to use a crew neck sweatshirt along with a coin for an award. Commissioner Hinnners offered to order the sweatshirts. He gets them at a good rate. He would just need to know the design.

It was agreed to publish the recognition in the quarterly newsletter and the web page. Those things are at no cost. They agreed to plan a dinner and certificates when the sweatshirts and coins are ordered and received.

- B. Discussion on Todd Gagnon. President Brow was looking for feedback from the other two officers. The issue to be discussed was Todd Gagnon, the former Fire Marshal, who had been Fire Marshal for the Town of Cromwell for over 20 years and whose death has been classified as a "line of duty" death. The President would like to recognize Todd in some way such as what had been done for Bill Jarzavek. When Mr. Jarzavek retired from the Water Department after many years of service, the Water Garage at Coles Road was dedicated in his name. The President would like to see something similar occur for Todd Gagnon. The only input he received was to Give \$100 to a high school student pursuing a career in public service, but he doesn't think that would do anything to honor or recognize Todd. There had been plans made to design a plaque similar to what was done for Bill Jarzavek. Commissioner Epstein suggested having a photograph of Todd included on the plaque and adding it to the wall of Fire Chiefs at the West Street station since the FMO is located is located there. Commissioner Hinnners suggested a plaque with the picture as part of the plaque done digitally.

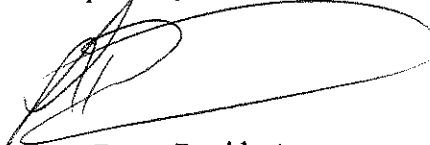
It was agreed to have some type of plaque displayed at the West Street station, FMO dedicating the FMO in Todd Gagnon's name.

- C. Executive Session – CHRO Complaint. A motion was made by Commissioner Hinnners, seconded by Commissioner Epstein and unanimously approved to enter into Executive Session at 6:24 PM, inviting the Executive Director into the session.

A motion was made by Commissioner Epstein, seconded by Commissioner Hinnners and unanimously approved to adjourn Executive Session at 7:08 PM. No action was taken.

- V. Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Epstein, seconded by Commissioner Hinnners and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lee Brow, President

Nancy Deegan
Recording Secretary