

**EMERGENCY SERVICES EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE
TOWN OF WILLINGTON
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
REGULAR MEETING
November 18, 2022**

Members present: Peter Tanaka; Chairman and Board of Finance, From Willington Fire Department #1 (WFD#1): Alex Moore; Chief, Ron Gantick; President, Tyler Millix; Vice President, Trevor Gantick; Deputy Chief (Alternate), Stuart Cobb; Assistant Chief (Alternate), From Willington Hill Fire Department (WHFD): Tom Snyder; Chief, Bobby Knight; Assistant Chief, Mike Makuch; Lieutenant and James Knight; President (Alternate).

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee was called to order at 6:32 p.m. on November 18, 2022 by Chairman Peter Tanaka.

2. Seating of Alternates.

No alternates needed to be seated.

3. Present to Speak.

No one was present to speak.

4. Chairman's Minute.

Chairman Tanaka thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for their patience on times and dates for the meeting. He stated that it has been close to three years since this Committee has met, and he is not sure exactly what the Committee has accomplished if anything and where the Committee is going if anywhere and what their future dates for meetings are. He was asked to reconvene the Committee at the behest of the CIP Committee and the First Selectwoman. From his viewpoint, the most valuable part of this Committee is that there are three parties that have an interest here (WFD#1, WHFD and the Town of Willington).

5. Discussion of Desired Outcome. Possible Narrowing of Options.

Tyler Millix asked what are the expectations of the three agencies mentioned above. What does Chairman Tanaka representing the Town and the two Chiefs expect out of the group if anything. Is it worthwhile to keep meeting. Bobby Knight suggested that the two Chiefs, the two Presidents and the Town Advocate meet either every month or every other month and discuss what they want.

Chairman Tanaka stated that he would like to see the lines of communication open between each department so they both know what is going on in each department. Chief Moore stated he thinks that since the beginning of COVID the communication between the two departments has been much better. He thinks the lines of communication and training between the two departments has been better. Chief Snyder agreed with Chief Moore that they communicate and the departments are working together better than ever. There could still be improvement but it's much better than before. Chief Snyder doesn't believe that communication or working together is the issue, that the expenses could be consolidated a little better and make the Town happier in that regard.

A discussion was had on one department, two departments, financial benefits, all the previous studies done on the departments, consolidation, spending, etc.

6. Strategies Towards Those Goals.

- Administrative and Operations
- Training
- Financial and Equipment Review

7. CIP Discussion.

A discussion was had on submitting their requests to CIP together as asked, and then CIP tearing the requests apart and asking which department requested which item after they were told to submit them together and getting the runaround from CIP.

A discussion was had on both departments' additions/new buildings and how they keep getting pushed back and now may again with the school building project.

Mike Makuch stated that with the SWAT analysis this committee did when they last met, the minimum that they agreed on was to at least work with the Town to update the contract and the Town could get assurance that training was done together and assurance that the Chiefs/Presidents meet with the Town every so often. Mike stated that this is the time for the departments to ask for what they want (new buildings/additions, municipal bond done at the same time with the school, etc.).

Peter Tanaka stated that what he wants to come out of this committee is for both departments to know what each other department is thinking so they both know what is going on with each other. He would like to see both departments to think longer term than this year and when they go to CIP and one department requests equipment or whatever that the other department is right there supporting them and telling CIP that the request is needed. He would like to see the two departments working together and come up with a longer plan that is longer than this year or even five years out.

A discussion was had on requests to CIP and the requests keep getting put out years and never getting discussed and the different political climates and those in office with their own agendas.

Tyler Millix asked Mike Makuch if he was suggesting that both departments get their ducks in a row to perhaps have a vision towards being on the school building bond. Mike stated that he thinks that is a great way to present it, that they stand together and present that to CIP.

A discussion was had regarding the departments supporting each other with their requests, how their communication is the best now that they have ever had, how they get so far with requests and then politics change and they have to start over, etc.

Tyler Millix stated that he does not think that the two departments are the root of the problem, he thinks that it is years of lack of understanding and support for emergency services in Willington. Mike Makuch stated that the way to improve the chances of the townspeople, CIP, BOF listening to what they need is for one person from each department standing together with their requests together whether it be in front of CIP, BOF or a Town meeting. He believes it improves the chances of them getting their requests heard. Mike related an incident from years ago when he and Tyler were both the Chiefs and both requested new apparatus and originally got turned down by the Chairman of BOF. Tyler and Mike unified and wrote a letter together to that Chairman about not supporting the needs of emergency services. They both did get their apparatus in steps, and Mike feels it was because they were unified in saying in a strongly worded letter that the Chairman of the BOF wasn't allowing them to provide the service that they needed to provide to the Town. Tyler stated that both departments need to stand together and be unified in their requests to CIP and don't let anyone divide them.

A discussion was had on some possible CIP requests for both departments. A discussion was had on the school bonding issue and perhaps both departments latching on to that bond with requests for new stations for both departments.

Tyler Millix suggested that the two departments form a smaller group/committee to get together and start establishing their goals and/or a plan for CIP. Chief Moore stated the CIP requests are due in 10 days. More discussion was had on previous CIP requests, costs having risen since they were last requested, the library bond, costs to the taxpayers, etc.

8. Next Steps/Agenda Items.

A discussion was had on a smaller group meeting soon. It was decided that the Chiefs and the Presidents would meet on Monday, November 28, 2022 at WFD#1 to discuss their CIP requests.

Stuart Cobb stated that CIP has talked informally about trying to look at a 20-year plan which realistically the departments and Public Works could do.

9. Future Meeting Dates.

Chairman Tanaka will contact everyone about the next meeting date.

10. Correspondence.

None.

11. Good and Welfare.

None.

12. Adjournment.

Chief Moore moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chief Snyder.

Vote: All yes.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Smith

Eileen Smith

Recording Secretary

RECEIVED
WILLINGTON, CT.

2022 NOV 29 A 10:53


TOWN CLERK