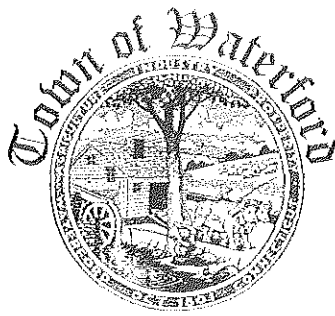


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2020 JUL 27 PM 3:53
TOWN OF WATERFORD
CLERK OF TOWN

MINUTES
PUBLIC PROTECTION & SAFETY STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE RTM
Public Hearing & Special Meeting
Tuesday July 21, 2020
5:30 P.M. - Waterford Town Hall/Zoom Remote Access Only

PUBLIC HEARING

The July 21, 2020 public hearing of the Public Protection & Safety Standing Committee of the RTM was called to order by Chairperson Timothy Condon at 5:34 P.M.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: April Cairns, Timothy Condon, Susan Driscoll, Richard Muckle.

ABSENT: Baird Welch-Collins

ALSO PRESENT: Town Attorney Robert Avena, First Selectman Robert Brule, Town Clerk David L. Campo, Labor Attorney Eileen Duggan, Director of Fire Services Bruce Miller, Human Resources Director Joyce Sauchuk.

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Muckle to open the public hearing in regard to a proposed addition to the Waterford Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.36 – VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS INCENTIVE PROGRAM at 5:35 P.M.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT was submitted by the following: Board of Finance Member John "Bill" Sheehan, 19 Laurel Crest, Waterford, CT; Quaker Hill Fire Chief Vincent Ukleja, 81 Old Colchester Rd, Quaker Hill, CT; RTM Member Thomas Dembek, 56 Goshen Rd, Waterford, CT; John Mariano, 126 Dayton Rd, Waterford, CT.

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Muckle, to close the public hearing at 5:43 P.M.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

SPECIAL MEETING

The July 21, 2020 special meeting of the Public Protection & Safety Standing Committee of the RTM was called to order by Chairperson Timothy Condon at 5:44 P.M.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: April Cairns, Timothy Condon, Susan Driscoll, Richard Muckle.

ABSENT: Baird Welch-Collins

ALSO PRESENT: Town Attorney Robert Avena, First Selectman Robert Brule, Town Clerk David L. Campo, Labor Attorney Eileen Duggan, Director of Fire Services Bruce Miller, Human Resources Director Joyce Sauchuk.

AGENDA ITEM 3: July 7, 2020 Minutes

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Muckle, to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2020 meeting.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

AGENDA ITEM 4: Review/Enactment of a Stipend Program for Volunteer Firefighters (RTC 10/07/2019)

DISCUSSION ensued in regards to comments made during the public hearing as well as additional concerns by members.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Condon, to recommend an addition to the Waterford Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.36 – VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Condon, Muckle

VOTING AGAINST: Cairns, Driscoll

MOTION FAILED

Town Attorney and staff agreed to address the changes in the next draft.

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Cairns, to adjourn at 6:34 P.M.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

**Statement of J. W. "Bill" Sheehan at Public Hearing 07212020
Regarding Volunteer Firefighter and Fire Police Incentive Program**

I want to thank the Committee for their hard work thus far in developing this proposed ordinance. Through the efforts of the Town Attorney, the Town Labor Attorney and the Human Resources Director, I am sure this ordinance meets the criteria of the Federal Fair Labor Standard Act (FLSA).

However, I believe that the ordinance has some weaknesses regarding information necessary to permit the key elected boards (Board of Selectman, Board of Finance, and Representative Town Meeting) to properly monitor this program.

The only reports mentioned in the Draft Ordinance are an Incident Report for every dispatched incident addressed to the Director of Fire Services and a quarterly report by the Director of Fire Services that provides information regarding who gets paid the stipend. I assume the quarterly report goes to the HR Director although there is no mention as to who receives the report.

I recommend that the Committee include a requirement that the Fire Services Director report to the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and Representative Town Meeting on the number of recipients of the stipend and the total amount expended each quarter along with a statement regarding the effectiveness of the program in incentivizing volunteer firefighters and fire police. The elected boards do not need to know any names, just numbers and dollars expended and success or failure of the incentive program.

I don't know if the recent agreement with the Waterford Ambulance Service (WAS) and the change in who responds to EMS Calls impacts this comment. Basically, the question is – Are any volunteer firefighters also employees of the WAS? If so, there needs to be a mechanism to ensure that a Volunteer does not get incentive credit as well as payment from the WAS. I do not see any such safeguard in the proposed ordinance.

In summary, I recommend outlining a safeguard procedure to prevent any incentive credit for a call that was also paid for by the Waterford Ambulance Service and providing a summary report to the elected boards on the status and success or not of the incentive program at a specifically defined interval (either quarterly or semiannually).

Thank you for your attention.

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