

Sept 19, 2025

Mr. Paul Goldstein, Moderator

Representative Town Meeting

Waterford, CT 06385

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2025 SEP 19 P 12:51

ATTEST *[Signature]*

RE: Final Report Fire Services Review Special Committee dated July 2025

Dear Mr. Moderator and Members of the RTM,

I would like to thank Chairman Tuneski and the Committee members for their years of hard work in putting together this report.

The charter of the new committee was "to review issues including performance, policies, and staffing and present their findings / recommendations of any changes needed to enhance public safety, creating a steering document and strategic plan".

I had anticipated a document such as the "Task Force 95 Systems Analysis prepared for the Waterford Fire Commission by the Long Range Planning Committee dated Feb.17, 1994". The very detailed report covered the following topic:

- a. Strengths
- b. Weaknesses
- c. Threats
- d. Recommendations

I expected this Committee to at least list the Weaknesses and Threats and then come back with a strong list of recommendations. Many of the weaknesses still exist 30 years later.

I see in Chief Howley's report his need for 3 additional firepersons for FY 27-28, 28-29 and 29-30. Is this a recommendation?

I have noticed in reading Chief Howley's Committee Report that our 5 stations are in need of repairs and various projects have been delayed or pushed out for various reasons unknown to the public. Would you tell us when these projects will be started or why they have not been highly recommended that this work be completed in this report?

- 1. Jordan
 - a. Window replacement FY 2024 \$60,000 pushed out

- b. Flooring Replacement FY 2024 \$40,000 pushed out
- 2. Quaker Hill
 - A. Generator Replacement FY 2023 \$50,000 pushed out
 - B. Flat roof replacement FY 2025 \$100,000 pushed out
 - C. Rear parking lot FY 2025 \$50,000 pushed out
- 3. Goshen
 - A. Apparatus floor drain FY 2023 \$25,000 pushed out
 - B. Flat roof replacement FY 2025 \$75,000 pushed out
 - C. Bunk room renovations FY 2025 \$50,000 pushed out
- 4. Cohanzie
 - A. Skylight in apparatus bay – FY 2025 - \$30,000

The total cost to do all of these projects is \$450,000. Isn't the roof the most important items to fix before rain damages and mold starts growing?

The summary on page 43, 8.6 Overall Strategic Plan simply says, "the Fire Administrator and the First Selectman shall annually monitor the effectiveness of the fire services". Also, "the RTM shall re-appoint a Fire Services Review Committee to perform an assessment function like the Plan of Conservation & Development...." Really? Is this the overall strategy?

Ted Olynciw, RTM Rep. 2nd District