

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD



WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886

Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee Meeting

September 4, 2025

Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

Members Present: Robert Tuneski, Rocco Bracciale, Wayne Gilpin, Richard Muckle, Paul Rafuse, Jennifer Bracciale, Ted Olynciw, Matthew Blankenship

Members Absent: Timothy Sullivan

Guests: Abbas Danesh, Kristin Gates, Ray Peabody

Public Comment: None

Opening Remarks: Director Haley is holding a presentation at Quaker Hill Elementary School tonight at 7:00pm. B. Tuneski would like to defer new business in order to adjourn early to attend this presentation.

Silver Petrucelli presented a technical discussion at the RTM and showed a 3-D model of the proposed Oswegatchie Firehouse.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by R. Muckle, second by J. Bracciale to approve the July 17, 2025 minutes.

T. Olynciw requested Guy Russo's name be added as the member who passed away.

VOTE: To approved the July 17, 2025 minutes as amended.

FOR: UnanimousApproval of Invoices:

MOTION by R. Muckle, second W. Gilpin to approve the August 26, 2025 minutes.

FOR: Unanimous

Approval of Invoice:

MOTION by T. Olynciw, second R. Muckle to approve the payment of Mystic Air Quality invoice 66035 in the amount of \$3,425.00 for Pre-Demolition Asbestos Inspection.

FOR: Unanimous

Old Business:

Review of Actions:

B. Tuneski received an email from Chief Mark Balestracci regarding the traffic signal. (Attachment 1)

There were no updates on the remaining open items.

Current Business: None

New Business: None

The next meeting is scheduled for 10/2/25

MOTION by M. Blankenship, second J. Bracciale to move the meeting to 10/9/25.

FOR: Unanimous

MOTION by M. Blankenship, second J. Bracciale to adjourn.

FOR: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned 6:51pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Linda Finnegan, Recording Secretary

Linda Finnegan

From: Robert Tuneski <j_robert_tuneski@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 4, 2025 6:58 PM
To: Linda Finnegan
Subject: Fwd: Traffic Light Status

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.

Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe.

Please add to meeting minutes for tonight
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: J ROBERT TUNESKI <j_robert_tuneski@sbcglobal.net>
Date: September 2, 2025 at 4:18:10 PM EDT
To: Marc Balestracci <mbalestracci@waterfordct.org>
Subject: Re: Traffic Light Status

Good afternoon Chief Balestracci,
Completely cleared up my questions. Thank you for the comprehensive and detailed response. BR

Bob T.

On Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 03:04:07 PM EDT, Marc Balestracci <mbalestracci@waterfordct.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

The police department's concerns were line-of-site and right-of-way for non-emergency fire apparatus returning to the station after a call and stopping traffic to back into the bay at the front of the station.

We felt that with the current line-of-site, emergency vehicles leaving the firehouse could create crash hazards to the firefighters and the motoring public due to the bend in the road, repositioning further west of the new station and the speeds of vehicles on the road. I do believe the line-of-site concerns could be properly corrected with the removal of the shrubs/tree at the western edge of the property. To date, all requested shrubs have been removed, but as I looked Friday, the tree remains. Should the tree be removed, I think that would create the distance needed to no longer require a traffic light so that fire apparatus could safely leave the station and vehicles traveling east on Rte 1 would have plenty of notice to come to a stop safely.

As for the backing into the fire station after a call, fire apparatus are not emergency vehicles when returning to the fire station and simply turning on emergency lights to back-in does not give town vehicles the right-of-way. Vehicles traveling on Rte 1 in both directions would have the right-of-way unless the fire apparatus has both lights and sirens activated and were responding to an emergency. For them to back-in safely and have the right of way, the traffic light would need to direct traffic on Rte 1 to stop. I believe town leaders were considering a policy that returning fire apparatus would need to pull through the back of the house, removing the right-of-way concerns and town liability should there be an accident.

Out of the five fire houses, only Oswegatchie and Jordan have traffic lights. They are both on State roads and have high volume/speed traffic passing with poor lines-of-site. Goshen, Cohanzie and Quaker Hill have very low traffic volume in front of their stations and therefore a light is not needed. I think this project could go without a traffic light if the two issues above are addressed.

I hope that cleared it up more than confused things. Bottom line, better line-of-site and no backing-in upon return and I think the light could be removed from the project. The traffic engineers stated OSTA had no position on it and I believe the Police Commission would agree with our position here.

Thank you,

Marc Balestracci

Chief of Police

Waterford Police Department

41 Avery Lane, Waterford, Connecticut

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