



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

TEL 860-870-3100 FAX 860-870-3102

www.ellington-ct.gov

Ted Graziani
Chairman

Tom Palshaw
Vice Chairman

Bill Correia
Keith Durao
Jim Prichard
John Ridzon
Heather Stavens

Charter Revision Commission

JOINT SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

May 16, 2018

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Correia, Keith Durao, Ted Graziani, Tom Palshaw, Jim Prichard, John Ridzon and Heather Stavens

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lori Spielman, James Prichard, John Turner and Melinda Ferry

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Cook, David Stavens and Ronald Stomberg

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Goldberg, Town of Windsor Fire Administrator; Dorian Famiglietti, Town Attorney; Mary Blanchette and Mary Clements, Hall Memorial Library Board of Trustees; Susan Phillips and Cheryl Chamberlin, Hall Memorial Library; Karl Neubecker and Robert Smith and other members of the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department; Simon Hessler and Joe Glomboske, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps; members of the Crystal Lake Fire Department; Don Davis

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Graziani called the Joint Special Meeting of the Charter Revision Commission (CRC) and Board of Selectmen (BOS) to order at 6:32 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Hall, 55 Main Street, Ellington, CT.

II. CITIZENS' FORUM [Non-agenda items]:

No one came forward.

III. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PROPOSAL TO ADD TO THE CHARTER THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Chairman Graziani welcomed guest Paul Goldberg, Fire Administrator, Town of Windsor.

Mr. Goldberg stated that he is a life-long Windsor resident, has been a firefighter for 40 years and the Fire Administrator for the Town of Windsor for 18 years. Mr. Goldberg explained that the Town of Windsor has four volunteer fire companies that are not contractual; two are Fire Districts: Windsor and Wilson, with four fire houses and four sub-stations. There are a total of 100 members; 70 are active members. Last year they responded to 727 calls from structure

fires to accidents. The fire companies do not respond to medical calls. Mr. Goldberg noted that the Town has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 4.

Mr. Goldberg stated that he performs a variety of administrative work in managing departmental funds, keeping official records and providing administrative support to the fire command staff. He reports directly to the Town Manager and indirectly to the Fire Chiefs. He stated that no two days are alike and estimates he spends 75% of his time on administrative duties and 25% with public relations.

Mr. Goldberg stated that he is charged with elongating the possibility to keep the force as a volunteer service. He stated that he spends a lot of time recruiting and educating candidates on the commitment of the volunteer firefighter position. He also coordinates the training and physical fitness programs, equipment and facilities management, purchasing and budget preparation and administration.

Mr. Graziani asked Mr. Goldberg to explain the cost savings/financial efficiency of his position. Mr. Goldberg stated processes are managed by one employee vs. four chiefs in the areas of research and purchasing. When purchasing apparatus, he works with the Chiefs to spec the truck and meet with the vendor. Mr. Goldberg sends out the bid and reviews the financials and the contract. He makes smart purchases by knowing other departments' inventory which avoids duplicate purchases. He also manages the maintenance of the Fire Department buildings and monitors utilities for HVAC, electrical and plumbing.

Mr. Palshaw asked what mechanism was used to create the position. Mr. Goldberg stated the position was created by Town Council action. Mr. Palshaw asked if Mr. Goldberg was assigned a Town vehicle. Mr. Goldberg stated that he uses his personal vehicle, by choice, and is reimbursed for mileage.

Mr. Turner asked if there was a social presence with the Fire Companies. Mr. Goldberg stated that each company has a social aspect and participate in small charitable fundraising.

Mr. Turner asked who provides emergency medical services. Mr. Goldberg replied Windsor Volunteer Ambulance with a paid Chief of Operations. Windsor Volunteer Ambulance has two rigs and answers 3,500 calls per year.

Mr. Turner asked the average age of the volunteers. Mr. Goldberg responded 53 years old. Mr. Turner asked if fire department members are required to be certified as an EMR or EMT. Mr. Goldberg responded no and added that the police officers are EMR-rated.

Mr. Turner asked if the Town of Windsor provides an incentive program. Mr. Goldberg stated that the members receive an hourly stipend and the Chiefs receive \$5,000 per year plus a vehicle.

Mr. Smith asked if Windsor had a Cadet Program. Mr. Goldberg stated they have an Explorer Program which currently has 12 members.

Mr. Turner asked Mr. Goldberg where he sees the Windsor Fire Services in five years. Mr. Goldberg felt in five years they may start adding career positions. He would like to bring a consultant in to assist with such a transition and will look to other Towns as a model.

Mr. Graziani thanked Mr. Goldberg for taking the time to share his experience and thanked all in attendance for their input.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (PALSHAW), SECONDED (RIDZON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE JOINT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CRC AND BOS AT 7:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Sauve
Recording Secretary