

**MINUTES
BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM / ZOOM
August 4, 2021**

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A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Public Safety was held in the City Hall auditorium on Wednesday, August 4, 2021. Attendance was in-person and by Zoom. The meeting was attended in-person by Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell, Fire Chief Peter Towey, Deputy Fire Chief David Tripp, Police Chief William Baldwin, Jr., Police Captain Louis Gonzalez, Trinity Health EMS Manager Jeff Ganung, and Board of Public Safety Commissioners Douglas Benedetto, Darlene Battle, Glenn McLeod, Dustin Bingham, Joseph McElroy, and Gregg Cogswell. Drakeville VFD Chief David Maccalous and Torrington VFD Commissioners Gary Delmonte and Scott Mills were also in attendance.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Bingham, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public. There was no one from the public who wished to speak.

MINUTES: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 7, 2021.

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the special meeting held July 26, 2021.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Commissioner McElroy, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board voted unanimously to enter Executive Session at 6:35 p.m., pursuant to C.G.S. §1-200(6)(A), to discuss the promotion of Fire Department personnel. They were joined by Chief Towey and Atty. Muschell.

OPEN SESSION

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board voted unanimously to enter Open Session at 7:05 p.m.

PROMOTION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

On a motion by Commissioner McElroy, seconded by Commissioner Battle, the Board voted unanimously to approve the promotion of Timothy O'Donnell to the rank of Fire Lieutenant, effective August 8, 2021.

Chief Towey announced that the promotional ceremony for Lt. O'Donnell was scheduled to be held at Franklin Plaza on August 9, 2021, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

COMPLETION OF PROBATIONARY PERIOD

On a motion by Commissioner Cogswell, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Officer Eric Misko as a regular member of the Torrington Police Department, having successfully completed his probationary period, effective July 16, 2021.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORTS: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Battle, seconded by Commissioner Cogswell, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Fire Chief's reports.

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF'S REPORTS: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to accept Deputy Fire Chief Tripp's reports.

TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORTS: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Bingham, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept Training Officer Shopey's reports.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORTS: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to accept Fire Marshal Bascetta's reports.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORTS: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Cogswell, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Emergency Management reports.

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORTS: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Bingham, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Police Chief’s reports. Commissioner McLeod requested clarification regarding the thank you letter from Chief Baldwin to a member of the public, which was included in the packet, regarding Officer Kisiel. Chief Baldwin explained that such letters are shared with the Board to make them aware of some of the positive feedback that he receives regarding his officers’ interactions with the public.

EMS PROVIDER ACTIVITY REPORTS: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to accept the EMS provider activity reports.

BUSINESS BY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

On a motion by Commissioner Battle, seconded by Commissioner Cogswell, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the volunteer fire departments. Drakeville VFD Chief Maccalous reported on hours of service and actions taken by the Drakeville VFD over the past month and year and thanked Chief Towey for his support of the volunteers. Tarringford VFD Commissioner Gary Delmonte reported that Tarringford’s car show was scheduled to take place on August 6, 2021. He also expressed his appreciation for Chief Towey and requested that the restrooms at City Hall be made available to patrons of the car show.

BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads.

Chief Baldwin reported that there was a statewide backlog in fingerprinting, as a result of the State’s new computer software. He also provided updates on the status of new recruits and officers in training, discussed recent and upcoming trainings for officers, reported that Officer Yabrosky and her K9 partner Addison completed the “Puppies Behind Bars” training, and announced that the ParkMobile parking app was up-and-running. Additionally, Chief Baldwin commended Officer Segui for evacuating tenants from a house fire and reported on several community events and public safety incidents which occurred in Torrington over the past several weeks, including fatal and non-fatal motor vehicle accidents, the PAL car show and Summer Fest, the annual Northwest Connecticut Junior Dress for Success Free Back to School Backpack/School Supply & Community Resource Informational Fair, and National Night Out.

Commissioner Bingham requested further clarification regarding the fingerprinting backlog and questioned whether revenue from parking meters grew since the ParkMobile app was implemented. Chief Baldwin explained that the fingerprinting backlog was a statewide issue as a result of the State’s new software and reported that he would gather data to compare parking revenues generated since the ParkMobile app was implemented.

Chief Towey commended the first responders that responded to the house fire on Wall Street, reported that the Fire Department would be flying a blue star flag and selling t-shirts in support of FF Deering, and provided an update on the new apparatus which was being serviced to resolve a recall issue. He also reported that four conditional job offers were awarded for new recruits to go to the Fire Academy, discussed the need to award two additional job offers in order to fill additional unanticipated retirements, and announced that the promotional ceremony for the newly promoted Lt. O'Donnell would be held at Franklin Plaza on August 9, 2021, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Lastly, Chief Towey expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Fire Chief for the City of Torrington.

Deputy Chief Tripp reported on the Fire Department’s involvement at several community events, including the touch-a-truck event and PAL’s Summer Fest and backpack giveaway. He also expressed his appreciation for Chief Towey and wished him luck.

EMS Manager Jeff Ganung reported that Trinity provided extra staff to cover the PAL Summer Fest.

CHANGE TO ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Cogswell, the Board voted unanimously to change the order of the next two agenda items and consider business by the Mayor and members of the Board of Public safety before discussing the hiring process for Police and Fire Department personnel.

BUSINESS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Cogswell, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of the Board of Public Safety.

The Board thanked Chief Towey for his service to the City and wished him luck in the next chapter his life. Commissioner Benedetto also thanked the public safety departments for their support with the backpack

giveaway and Commissioner Cogswell expressed his appreciation for the successful Summer Fest and National Night Out. Commissioner McLeod commented on the success of the PAL car show and Commissioner Battle expressed her appreciation for those who participated in the National Night Out. Mayor Carbone announced that an Open House was scheduled to be held on August 13, 2021, beginning at 10:00 a.m. to celebrate Chief Towey and wish him well on his departure.


DISCUSSION: POLICE & FIRE HIRING PROCCES

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Cogswell, the Board voted unanimously to open the floor for discussion regarding the hiring process for Police and Fire Department personnel. The Board discussed past practices, Personnel Department policies, and applicable charter and statutory specifications related to the hiring process of police and fire department personnel.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Bingham, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST: 
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK