

FIRE DEPARTMENT

In attendance:

*Richard Heidgerd Chief
Steven Alsup Deputy Fire Chief
Carmen Rao Fire Marshal*

Chief Heidgerd explained that the 1.33 % increase is related to contractual increases. They are in need of the Training Tower. Mr. Bowes stated that the Training Tower comes from this year's surplus, so Year 2 is not in the budget for FY 2015-2016.

Councilor Russo asked about the new fire station, and if there would be a ground breaking ceremony. Chief Heidgerd said no ceremony but within one to two weeks, they are ready to break ground. There will be a grand opening for the new station.

Councilor Fishbein asked about types of pay.

AMBULANCE/EMS TRANSPORT FUND

*In attendance: Richard Heidgerd Chief
Steven Alsup Deputy Fire Chief*

Chief Heidgerd said that their Capital Item-Ambulance is in Year 1 of 2. He spoke about a cardiac monitor and a power stretcher. They spent a good deal of time discussing the different types of pay and on collectibles. Two Councilors strongly expressed the need to hire a collection agency or law firm to recoup some of the 20% in uncollectibles, which are linked to low Medicare payment rates and that 5% to 80% of those who do not pay have no medical insurance. They discussed the process to collect a bad debt. They have not had any court experience yet. Write-offs were part of the debate with Mr. Bowes who explained the different tiers, that people move and for some the debt may not be economically feasible.

Chairman Cervoni noted that this service was being provided before the fund was even established. The Ambulance Service Enterprise Fund and its operation is still new. They need to build on training and to gain experience in collecting and to learn how to collect. He said they are moving forward to make this enterprise fund self-sufficient.

Mayor Dickinson said that ambulance billables should be increased to match the private sector. We need to move forward with higher rates.

The Enterprise needs three years of experience to go to the State of Connecticut to ask for an increase in rates. This happens in an off-cycle for Wallingford who will need to wait almost eight months beyond their three-year anniversary before they can apply to the State of Connecticut to request a rate raise.

FIRE MARSHAL

Fire Marshal Rao stated that increase in the budget is due to contractual increases. Mr. Bowes reported that there are funds to cover wage increases in Contingency.

There was some discussion with regard to iPads/laptops in the field.

TOWN COUNCIL

Councilor Fishbein suggested a reduction in the Council's budget in the Office Supplies and Expenses and in the Maintenance of Equipment lines of the budget.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR LETOURNEAU AND
SECONDED BY COUNCILOR FISHBEIN.**

**VOTE: 8-AYE; 1-ABSENT (SULLIVAN)
MOTION PASSED.**

The Council adjourned the meeting at 7:50P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Weekes
Secretary to the Town Council
Meeting digitally recorded.

Chairman Vincent Cervoni

Date

Town Clerk, Barbara Thompson

Date