



## Chief's Report June 29, 2020

### I. Logistics

- a. Squad 1 is undergoing warranty work.
- b. The former Squad 5 is now being used for Rescue 2 by Volunteer Company 1.
- c. I submitted the 2019 Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program; our request was for protective clothing and replacement Lifepaks. It is expected awards will be delayed due to COVID-19.
- d. Car 5 the 2005 Ford Plow truck was given to Public Services to use.
- e. The replacement for the shift commander car (Car 4) is still being built out.
- f. A plow was purchased for the old spare Battalion Chief Truck.
- g. The department continues to be heavily entrenched with managing the pandemic. The Connecticut Department of Public Health is the lead agency for the event. The department is assisting in any way possible and is also directing other departments in town as to guidance provided by the Connecticut DPH and DEMHS.
- h. A bid was advertised and will be awarded for a new Zodiac Rescue Boat funded by a donation.
- i. At the time of the writing of this report the Town of East Haven has approximately 400 cases in town and 32 deaths, 24 of which were at Whispering Pines.

### II. Operations

- a. The department has been at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic. Operations have been adjusted for force protection.
- b. A department activity report is attached since the previous meeting as well as a report of activity form the date of the first COVID-19 positive in town. Calls for service have decreased significantly since the event.

### III. Finance

- a. The Town budget process is on-going. The request from the fire department was \$7,128,922. On May 12<sup>th</sup> I gave my budget presentation to the Town Budget Committee during their workshop. I have attached a copy herein.
- b. At the time this report was written we were -\$49,000 from regular salary line, -\$75,000 in Overtime and -\$15,000 in education incentive, we have excess funds in the Garcia, Part-Time Wages, Holiday and Personal Day lines that will be transferred to cover the shortage. This is largely due to injuries, vacancies during recruit training for new hires, replacement costs, retiree payouts and especially COVID-19 that hit the department hard during the second half of the FY. We are



FIRE CHIEF MATTHEW MARCARELLI

FIRE MARSHAL / DEPUTY CHIEF MARK NIMONS

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF CHARLES LICATA

TRAINING OFFICER / DEPUTY CHIEF PAUL J. NORWOOD

also seeking reimbursement through FEMA and the State of Connecticut for a large portion of these expenditures but that is a slow process.

- c. At the initiation of the pandemic the Mayor was supportive and immediately put in place a plan to acquire \$150,000 for a town wide response to pandemic. Police and Fire Chiefs have been managing the incident jointly with the Mayor.
- d. On May 12, 2020 I submitted a request for reimbursement for PPE through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant-Supplemental. If awarded this would cover 85% of the cost of PPE purchased totaling close to \$77,000.

IV. Buildings & Facilities

- a. Re-finishing of floors at Station 4 is scheduled for Station 4 next week. Station 4 work has been slowed due to COVID-19. Roof repairs were completed May 2.
- b. Boiler work / replacement has been completed at headquarters.

V. Personnel Matters

- a. One firefighter is on extended injury leave post-surgery for a shoulder injury and last reports indicate he will not be returning until July. This year there were 6 firefighters either on extended injury leave, sick leave due to serious injury / illness or FMLA. These extended absences may have an impact on the year end budget.
- b. There are two firefighters retiring in July and one firefighter may be leaving for another department.
- c. A request from Civil Service for an updated eligibility list from the last test has been requested and a new test is also underway.
- d. The Commission requested from the Civil Service Director a Battalion Chiefs exam due to pending retirements. The written test is scheduled for July 31 and 8 candidates have applied.
- e. Civil Service is looking at the possibility of remote testing.
- f. The 2020-2021 budget request included 4 Captains positions which would be in addition to the current budgeted strength of the department increasing it by 4 positions.

Sincerely,

Matthew Marcarelli  
Fire Chief