

**APPROVED**  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
West Haven Subcommittee of the MARB

**Meeting Date and Time:** Tuesday, July 25, 2023, 10:00 AM –1:00 PM

**Meeting Location:** In-Person Only Starting at 366 Elm Street, West Haven, CT 06516

**Members in Attendance:** Kimberly Kennison (Secretary of OPM Designee), Susan Weisselberg, Tom Hamilton and Steven Falcigno.

**Tier IV Members in Attendance:** Colleen O’Connor and Ronald Quagliani

**Fire Officials in Attendance:** Commissioner John Carew, Commissioner Robert Bruno, Chief James O’Brien (First Fire/Center), Chief Michael Terenzio (Allingtown), Chief Stephen Scafariello (West Shore) and **Fire Marshal Michael Esposito ????**.

**Municipal Officials in Attendance:** Ken Carney, David Taylor, and Rick Spreyer

**Staff in Attendance:** John Mehr, Lori McLoughlin, Lori Granato, and Noah Lansin

**Agenda**

I. Call to Order

The meeting/tour was called to order at 10:00am in the back parking lot of the First Fire/Center Fire Station located at 366 Elm Street.

II. Tour and Need Assessment Discussion – City of West Haven Fire Districts

- a. 10:00am – 10:30am - Tour of First Fire/Center Fire District Station  
– 366 Elm Street, West Haven, CT 06516
- b. 10:45am – 11:15am Allingtown Fire District  
– Minor Park, 318 Fairfax Street, West Haven, CT 06516
- c. 11:30am – 12:00pam West Shore Fire District  
– 860 Ocean Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516

III. Review and Discuss - Draft Fire Districts Financials and Development of Strategic Plan

Ms. Kennison recommended that a Fire Service Feasibility Study be performed for the fire district. A review of the operations with a focus on the strategic locations within districts for fire houses that would provide the best fire response to the residents of West Haven.

Mr. Carney, Chairman of the ARPA Committee, handed out ARPA Project update as July 5, 2023. He stated that each one of the fire districts would be allocated \$1.025 of ARPA funds. The fire districts would focus on immediate needs. The ARPA funds would have to be committed to projects by December 31, 2024, with the funds being spent by December 31, 2026.

Chief James O'Brien discussed the needs of the First Fire/Center Fire District. The fire station is located on 366 Elm Street is running out of space for its equipment. An opportunity exists that two lots, with houses, on Savin Avenue behind the fire station are available to be purchased from the homeowners. The acquisition of these two properties would allow the Elm Street fire station to expand its parking lot situation and to create more storage space.

Chief Michael Terenzio discussed the needs of the Allingtown Fire District. The Minor Park Fire Station located on 366 Elm Street is looking for additional storage space for its vehicles, boats, and equipment. With its allocation of ARPA funds, Allingtown is proposing to put an addition in the back of the Minor Park Fire Station to help relief the storage problem.

Chief Stephen Scafariello discussed the needs of the West Shore Fire District. The fire station on Ocean Avenue has a drainage problem that results with water in the basement of the building. The district is looking to spend its ARPA funds on waterproofing the Ocean Avenue fire station basement. In addition, to provide for more privacy, creating separate sleeping quarters, putting in separate gender bathrooms, and creating changing quarters at both fire houses.

There were discussions about attracting and retaining full-time firefighters and volunteer firefighters. Noting that West Haven has various types of public safety situations that the fire districts need to response too. Those include responding to situations at a college campus, to using fire boats for the calls on the Long Island Sound and shallow lakes, to the railroad that travels through the city, and to calls on the I-95 interstate highway.

A motion was made by Mr. Falcigno and seconded by Ms. Weisselberg to accept and recommend to the full MARB the following three fire district projects as long as a concurrent Fire Service Feasibility Study is being performed for West Haven:

1. First Fire/Center Fire District – the acquisition of two properties on Savin Avenue behind the 366 Elm Street fire station;
2. Allingtown Fire District - an additional storage building in the back of the Minor Park Fire Station and;

3. West Shore Fire District – waterproofing the basement of the Ocean Avenue fire station, and creating separate sleeping quarters, putting in separate gender bathrooms and improving changing quarters at both district fire stations.

Motion was carried unanimously, 4 to 0

- II. Adjourned at 1:00pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Hamilton seconded by Ms. Weisselberg. Motion carried unanimously.

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