



LONG HILL FIRE DISTRICT

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Trumbull, CT 6611
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COMMISSION'S ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2020

For the Long Hill Fire District and Fire Department, the 2019 – 2020 fiscal year started out like any other with business and operations as usual. But, as we all are already familiar, in March of this year that all changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March 12th, Our firehouses have been closed to the general public and they are only open to our employees during working hours and also firefighters during emergency responses and equipment maintenance. Regardless of the current environment, the Long Hill Fire District and Fire Department continues to provide the highest level of fire protection and rescue services to our Long Hill neighbors and residents in the most fiscal, professional and responsive manner.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER OPERATIONS

The operations part of the Fire Department is provided by the Long Hill Volunteer Fire Company No. 1. Since 1921 the Long Hill Fire Company has been providing dedicated services within the Town and surrounding communities when called for assistance. The Fire Department's exemplary fire protection, community education programs, and safety training services are the direct result of the significant volunteer hours and contributions unselfishly made by the more than 70 member organization. Like every year, the Fire Company is continuously recruiting and looking for new members and the recruitment effort is led by Company President Frank Novak and the Company Board Members.

The Long Hill Fire Department is led by Chief Alex Rauso, who directs all firefighting, administration and training functions. The Chief, along with his administration are responsible for the day to day operation of the Long Hill Fire Department. He is assisted by Deputy Chief Rob Murphy, who is responsible for fire ground operations, Assistant Chief Jim Sambrook who manages administrative operations and Assistant Chief Greg SanFanAndre who is in charge of planning and scheduling all training events and apparatus replacement.

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The Commission would like to thank the Fire Company, the Fire Department and all of their volunteer firefighting members for their dedication, loyalty, countless hours and tireless efforts in protecting the residents of the Long Hill district of Trumbull.

The Commission also thanks the Long Hill Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary for their various activities throughout the year. They provide a needed support structure to our firefighters at critical times during the year and we are fortunate to have this dedicated group of volunteers.

FIREFIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS

The Long Hill Fire Commission strives to provide services in the most fiscally efficient manner possible, without sacrificing the safety of its core volunteers and the residents of Long Hill. Maintaining the highest level of services without placing an undue tax burden on its district residents is its mantra. Fiscally prudent planning to maintain equipment, facilities and core services ensures tax rates are kept the lowest possible, avoiding any unnecessary increases.

This year also brought on a new opportunity where the Long Hill Fire Department instituted its first ever Live-in program. This program allows students from local universities that are firefighters in their home communities to live in our New Station 2 while attending classes. These students exchange living accommodations for firefighting services by becoming volunteer members of the Department. Currently there are four live-in students but we do have the facilities to accommodate a total of 6. These students take part in all training required by Department Operations and adhere to all rules and regulations as do the regular members. So far this program has proven very successful and an excellent benefit to both the Department and the students.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Department will be completing the purchase and upgrading of our radio and communications equipment in all of our apparatus. We have also initiated a truck committee headed up by Assistant Chief Greg SanFanAndre to look into the replacement of our most active piece of apparatus. The apparatus committee is also finalizing the replacement of our aging pickup truck. With the success of our Live-in program, the Department is looking into the expansion of the program to a total of 6 from the current 4 students. Over the next few years the Fire District will be evaluating the conditions of our other two fire stations in order to come up with an overall improvement plan.

FISCAL MANAGEMENT

The Commission's goal is to provide the most responsive fire and rescue service in the safest manner possible at the lowest cost to Long Hill residents. At this time the fire tax mil rate will need to be raised for fiscal year 2020 – 2021 from .904 to .924. With our aging fleet of apparatus and our running replacement schedule, the District is being prudent to ensure that there are sufficient funds to assist with future apparatus replacement/purchases.

While this is not something the fire district wants to do, it is something it needs to do. The cost of new fire apparatus, maintenance and insurance on our existing apparatus and upkeep of our facilities has also increased over the years. Compared to other fire districts in the State of Connecticut, Long Hill has one of the lowest tax mil rates and is still able to provide outstanding service to its residents.

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THANK YOU

The Long Hill Fire District would like to thank our dedicated employees for all of their hard work during the year. If it was not for our employees, the job as a commissioner would be a lot harder.

As being the chairman of the Long Hill Fire District, I would like to thank my fellow commissioners for their hard work and determination on making the Long Hill Fire District what it is today and what it will continue to be in the future.

In conclusion, the Long Hill Fire District Commission is very proud of the service provided by Long Hill Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 and the dedicated volunteer firefighters. Their enthusiasm provides a level of fire protection and life rescue services to Long Hill residents which ranks among the best volunteer or paid firefighting protection anywhere. This could not be accomplished without the support of the taxpayers of the Long Hill Fire District and we thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Long Hill Fire District Board of Commissioners

John Mellardo - Chairman
Kenneth Bakalar - Co-Chairman
Richard Wilkins
Liam Baker
Thomas Monks