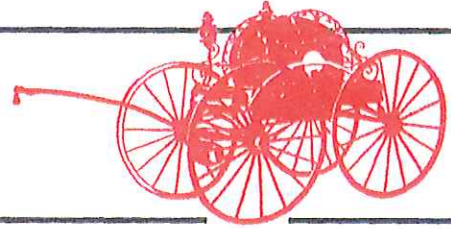

Warren Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
11 Sackett Hill Rd. • Warren, Connecticut 06754



September 01, 2020

Town of Warren , CT
Attn: First Selectman
50 Cemetery Road
Warren, CT 06754

Dear First Selectman,

Please find here our replies to the three details listed in the letter from Attorney James Steck from Ebersol, McCormick, Reis, & Steck, LLC dated August 18,2020.

Town controls sealed bids and you should be able to confirm that process was followed.

The Pierce bid does indicate inspections and warrantee details.

Third is that familial relationship can be said for three of the bidders except KME. KME was new vendor without previous communications. We did maintain integrity with our communications with all vendors.

The WVFC is requesting that the Selectmen take the lead and please move forward with special town meeting to allow town residents to decide on approval of funds to purchase the new fire apparatus.

Sincerely submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Ponton', written in a cursive style.

Richard Ponton Truck Committee Chair
Warren Volunteer Fire Company

Tim,
I just received the Agenda for the above meeting.

I request that these comments be read into the record.

I respectfully request that you change the order of the agenda as follows.

- 1) Public Comment**
- 2) Approval of the Minutes of Aug 18, 202**

WHY?

There are too many mistakes in these minutes which need to be corrected prior to the motion to approve the minutes.

2) Public Comment

a. H Tammen – Read his letter

Where is the letter? What does it say? It should be attached to the minutes.

b. E Schoenfeld – thank you to all the members of the WVFC, social services, public works for everything during the recent storm

c. J Marsh – corrected H Tammen’s statement regarding no P&R in Morris – there is and her name is K Davila

see correction under f)

d. C Frisbie – corrected Tammen’s statement regarding

(1) P&R with the most hours per week – incorrect the Admin Asst is 28hrs per week

The P&R **position** has 25 hours allocated. Mrs. Friesbie should know better, her "28 hours" do refer to the total hours for 2 positions held by Mrs. Frisbie: besides working as **Admin Asst** she also holds the position of **Accountant/Bookkeeper** (see Charles Heaven & Co analysis of staff positions in the Town of Warren, dd 5/6/2020).

(2) regarding median – the ZEO is actually \$35 per hour which is \$2-\$3 more than the COG median (salary survey)

correct (I thought the town had just lost its ZEO) - there were in total 3 staff positions paid above the median level: Recreation Director already with most hours per week, the Town Clerk, and the Land Use Officer.

I believe the new Land Use Officer hire is at the \$32 level.

e. R Kasler – regarding Tammen’s statement regarding the salary numbers – the BOF approved those along with 40% of residents who commented on the budget

I believe Mrs. Kasler talked about the 40% reduction of the initial wages increase proposal.

f. H Tammen – spoke again on his letter

Incorrect - Mr. Tammen did not speak again on his letter. He responded to Mrs. Marsh's earlier comment and **corrected his statement saying that there is no P&R position in Morris according to their town budget unless it is a non-salaried position. This comment should have been printed like the earlier comments by Kasler, Frisbie, Marsh, and Schoenfeld.**

10) First Selectman's Report: see attached.

??? The report is not attached.

11) Public comment

(due to the possibility of an executive session, public comment was moved up on the agenda)

a. R Kasler - question on the Gowans-Knight Company letter written to T Pettit and how they answered the letter?

Ponton answered - there were conversations between them, but Pettit did have conversations with the other bidders too regarding bid specs. Letter was sent to the Chief in May and he received this by email, not mail. Questioning on when the original letter was received by the Selectmen or the town government because it's not dated.

Incorrect. The letter was dated May 6, but it was not time-stamped. (In fact, the letter now bears the time stamp of Received Aug. 26, 2020, how does that work?)

FC decided not to address the letter since it was received after the bids were open.

J Marsh added about the **anonymous letter** – there is nothing in that letter that was true, not factual only here-say

More discussion followed on the letter followed.

It shows on the far right corner RECEIVED Jul 27, 2020 (does not look like the time stamp [no hour or signature] used by ToW). Like the Gowans-Knight Company letter, the whistleblower letter now bears the time stamp of Received Aug. 26, 2020, how does that work?) with the same handwritten time of 3:58 pm????

The same is true for the email (see 2)a. "the letter") sent by Mr. Tammen on 8/17/2020.

b. H Tammen – stated the P&Z alternates and their terms and how they should be appointed as regulars because of seniority:

Questioned the relationship of the FC truck bidder to the Asst Fire Chief: wants to know what happened to the study that was supposed to happen 3 years ago regarding the FC trucks/equipment discussed at the BOF meetings; questioned the FC's 501c3 status c.

Correction: The FC is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. Mr. Tammen stated his concern that it could lose its tax-exempt status if the whistleblower letter would be known to the IRS. Any Conflict of Interest issue is very high on the enforcement list against non-profits.

J. Marsh – Strongly rebutted Tammen’s previous statements against the Fire Company.

Correction: Mr. Tammen never made statements against the Fire Company but questioned, again and again, the Fire Company **Leadership** (its President and VP). Mr. Tammen mentioned several times his support and appreciation of the Fire Company.

It appears that the person who takes the minutes is biased. This is evidenced by the fact that some people’s comments are elaborately stated, whereas others, i.e. Mr. Tammen’s, are not. On top of it, the letter Mr. Tammen submitted prior to the meeting is mentioned several times but then it is not attached to the minutes published online and made part of the record (???) as was requested.

This is unfair treatment towards Mr. Tammen and unprofessional. Mr. Tammen respectfully asks that everyone making a comment is treated equally and objectively. This is not the first time Mr. Tammen notices this bias and requests that it be rectified.

Thank you for your consideration
Hermann Tammen