



TOWN OF NEWINGTON

1485 Main Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Newington Volunteer Fire Department

MINUTES

Board of Fire Commissioners

Special Meeting

August 13, 2009

Old Firehouse

1161 Main Street

Newington, CT 06111

7:30pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ATTENDANCE

Commissioner's Ziegler, Stoddard, Interim Commissioner Fox

Chief Chris Schroeder

Assistant Chief Tom Lapierre

Deputy Chief Vic Depamphilis-Excused

Deputy Frank Papa

Deputy Chief Tom Gill-Excused

Ret. Comm. John Gubbins

Dick Brown

Lt. Mike Iskra

Chet Bogatz

Bill Pollock

Paul Lach

Captain John Montano

Conrad Desjardins

Council Liaison: Tom Bowen

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Fmr. Commissioner John Gubbins spoke on recruitment and had we reached capacity for all the houses. Company #2 is short a few new members otherwise we are fully staffed.

Bill Pollock asked about the computers in the apparatus and the appearance/condition of the fire houses. Chief Schroeder reminded firefighter Pollock that questions of this nature should be addressed to his Captain and if further information is needed, then a request can be made to meet with the Deputy Chief in charge of buildings.

Chief Schroeder is very concerned with the lack of observance of the Chain of Command. He believes that because the Chain has not been followed on occasion, as it should be, the results have been confusion and misinformation throughout the department.

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IV. Communications

Commissioner Ziegler added letter from Secretary Sue Reniewicz and one from Mark Fox. A motion was made to accept the communications as presented. Motion passed.

V. Ledger Status

Commissioner Stoddard recognized that under Training the allotted amount of money has been reduced considerably. A motion was made to accept the Ledger Status as presented. Motion passed.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Captain's Fire Project – IT is working on updating and testing software. Money became available July 1, 2009. It continues to be slow moving but progress is being made.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Stoddard asked if there was anything concerning the length of time served or the rank an officer must be in order to assume to Captain's position. Assistant Chief Lapierre stated he had researched this issue and nothing is stipulated in the Department's Rules & Regulations.

Commissioner Stoddard suggested that after the new commission is established in November that they take a look at this portion of the Rules & Regulations. He also asked for the Commission to have some discretion over the appointment of Captain when the two finalists are very close in their scores.

Commissioner Ziegler also commented on the unique situation that arose during this particular promotional period. He also would like to take a closer look at the process and see that it is serving the best interests of all applicants and the department.

Chief Schroeder also agreed that the selection process was very frustrating this year, especially for a couple of companies. The Chief would like to see some leeway in the selection process, possibly the three highest candidates.

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VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Fmr. Commissioner John Gubbins asked about the resignation of a Commissioner because he now holds a position of 2nd. Lieutenant at Co.#2. Commissioner Ziegler explained that holding two positions could lead to the perception of a conflict, especially when it came to disciplinary issues.

Chief Schroeder explained, and gave examples of situations in the past where others had to make similar choices. Fmr. Commissioner Gubbins asked if this regulation/practice was in writing anywhere, because he was not aware of it.

It was noted that at no time was Commissioner Jascowski asked to step down. He made the decision to become an officer and vacate the Commissioner's spot.

Chief Schroeder announced that we had received a \$ 2,500.00 donation from Sam's Club. The Department was hand for the Grand Opening. Fire Prevention has been busy this summer.

*****At this point the tape ran out and no one turned it over.*****

IX. COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS

X. ADJOURNMENT

The members of the Commission went into Executive Session at 8:15pm and Close the session and meeting at 8:43pm.

Submitted By: _____
Sue Reniewicz – Board Secretary

