



TOWN OF NEWINGTON

1485 Main Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Board of Fire Commissioners



Brian Whalen
Frank L. DeMaio
Kent E. Stoddard Jr.
Fire Commissioners

January 11, 2024 BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS Minutes

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Town Clerk

- I. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Whalen. Meeting began with Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.
- II. **Attendance** – Chairman Brian Whalen, Commissioners Frank DeMaio and Kent Stoddard, Chief Jeff Trommer, Deputy Chief Regina, Deputy Chief Craig Stegmaier, Council Liaison Kim Radda.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner DeMaio made a motion to approve the December 12, 2023, December 14, 2023 and December 20, 2023 minutes, Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Public Participation** – None
- V. **Communications**- Commissioner DeMaio went over the monthly reports for December. Motion to approve communications by Commissioner Stoddard, seconded by Commissioner DeMaio. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **Ledger Status** – Commissioner Stoddard went over ledger status, looks good. Motion made by Commissioner Stoddard to accept ledger status, seconded by Commissioner DeMaio, motion passed unanimously.
- VII. **Old Business** –
 - Radio System Update- Chief Trommer, In a stall pattern. Waiting on issue to be resolved with Motorola. Firm wear issue. Issue is in Motorola's hands. Country wide problem with Motorola, not just us. Moving slow but still looking at April to be operational and online.
 - Grant Update –Chief Trommer, sign is about half way. Waiting on funds to come in from the Hero's Grant for helmets and boots.
 - Tablets and Alpine Software – Chief Regina, pretty close to having all tablets installed. Working on a few tweaks with Red RMX.
 - Autism Fund Raising – Chief Stegmaier, Nothing new to report.

- Deputy Chief Position – Written exam was last night, ongoing process, next week is oral panel, hope to have appointment next week. Thank you to the members who have stepped up during this process.
- Collection Company – Chief Trommer, Paperwork got mixed up, trying to work with company and should have an update for next month.
- Commission Handbook – Commissioner Stoddard, Keith Chapman set up a handbook, will be reviewing handbook and putting out for future commissions.

VIII. **New Business** – Budget – Chief Trommer, We need to look at the replacement of apparatus during budget discussions with the town. Building time is three to five years and the average cost increase is ten to twelve percent a year. Also need to discuss our buildings with the town. Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to accept the 2024-2025 budget as presented, Commissioner DeMaio seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously,

IX. Public Participation - Deputy Mayor Kim Radda, Would like to get a tour of Chapman Street. We will try to get tours of all the stations for town council. Encourages communication with the council to continue.

John Montano - Can Zoom be done at all firehouses for future meetings? This year meetings have already been scheduled but will possibly change for next years meetings.

Chief Regina – Many firefighters have signed up for classes. Received new training equipment, a simulator that allows us to do a digital fie with a training hose. Will do inhouse training with it. Will do a demo for town council in the near future.

X. **Commissioners Remarks** - Commissioner Stoddard, Happy healthy new year. All divisions are stepping up and doing a great job.

Commissioner DeMaio –Happy new year. Department has grown in leaps and bounds. Watches closely and listens to calls on the radio and loves what he sees. Work with new town council on needs not wants.

Chairman Whalen – Fourteen fire calls yesterday alone from storm. Call volume is growing. No doubt we will handle.

XI. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7:45. Motion by Commissioner Stoddard, seconded by Commissioner DeMaio. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by: Sherri Leghorn, Fire Department Secretary