



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

1485 Main Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Board of Fire Commissioners



Brian Whalen
Brian Gallagher
Kent E. Stoddard, Jr.
Fire Commissioners

January 14, 2021

This meeting was presented as a Zoom Webinar/Meeting.

7:30pm

Minutes

Town Clerk

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- I. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Commissioner Kent Stoddard. Meeting began with Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Attendance** – Commissioner’s Kent Stoddard and Brian Whalen, Chief Jeffrey Trommer, Assistant Chief Tom Lapierre, Deputy Chief Craig Stegmaier, Deputy Chief Bob Regina, Council Liaison Tim Manke, Council Liaison Chris Miner, Town Clerk James Krupinski. Commission Chairman Brian Gallagher was absent.
- III. **Public Participation** – Kevin Ziegler spoke on the testing process for Deputy Chief Position. He felt that it would be a good time to utilize the testing process and retest for all Chief’s positions. John Montano spoke on the change of qualifications to apply for the Deputy Chief’s open position. Qualifications were changed so more candidates could apply for the job. John congratulated Chief Trommer on his appointment and get well to Chairman Gallagher. Kris Lubas spoke on the promotion process for Deputy Chief. He appreciates the change in the qualifications. Council Liaison Chris Miner questioned if there was a written policy on the promotional process. The Fire Commission sets the qualifications based on the charter.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner Whalen made a motion to approve the 12/10/2020 and 01/07/21 minutes. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion.
- V. **Communications** –
 - Monthly Reports
 - Department Promotions
 - Chiefs Roles and Responsibilities

Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to accept Communications, Commissioner Whalen seconded the motion.
- VI. **Ledger Status** – Commissioner Whalen stated the ledger status looked like it should look for this time of the year. Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to approve ledger. Commissioner Whalen seconded the motion.
- VII. **Old Business** - Deputy Chief Stegmaier has received his car. Car is in great condition and he is very happy with it. Car for Assistant Chief Lapierre is being worked on and we should

receive it in the next week. Police Department received some new cruisers so hopefully we will receive more cars for the other Deputy Chiefs in the near future. Chief's evaluations and Staff Officers evaluations have been on hold because of Covid.

A motion was made by Commissioner Whalen for the Town Of Newington to join a consortium named as HGAC out of Texas. This consortium has prepaid pricing for vehicles which we will use in the future for looking for a new Truck 2 ladder truck. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion.

There were six applicants for Deputy Chief testing. Five applicants are qualified to proceed in the testing process. The test will be administered on February 6, 2021 by the Connecticut Fire Academy. An oral board will follow the testing and then a panel with the Chief and Commissioners. An appointment will be made after this process.

VIII. New Business – The following motion was made by Commissioner Stoddard and Seconded by Commissioner Whalen:

The Newington Fire Department Board of Fire Commissioners delegates the normal personnel functions for the full time employees (currently the fire department secretary) and the Fire Marshal and his staff to the Town Manager. The commission will be the final board of appeals for personnel matters. The board will work closely with the town manager on hiring or termination decisions.

IX. Public Participation- John Montano asked about stipends for the Chiefs cars. Stipends will be taken away when Chiefs receive their car. This will be a savings for next years budget. Kevin Ziegler questioned how the consortium for truck two will work. Clarification was given to him. Councilor Liaison Chris Miner also stated that this is used nationwide.

X. Commissioner Remarks – Commissioner Whalen wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated how happy he is with the communications with Chief Trommer.

Commissioner Stoddard asked everyone to pray for Commissioner Gallagher and stated we are going in the right direction for the new truck.

XI. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:01

Respectfully Submitted by: Sherri Leghorn, Fire Department Secretary