



James Krupinski
Acting Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

1485 Main Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Board of Fire Commissioners

March 16, 2023



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

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING Minutes

- 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, Commissioner, Kent Stoddard, Commissioner Frank DeMaio, Chief Jeff Trommer, Assistant Chief Lapierre, Deputy Chief Stegmaier, Deputy Chief Nesklada, Council Liaison Manke.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to approve the February 9, 2023 minutes, Commissioner DeMaio seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Public Participation** – None
- V. **Communications**- Chairman Whalen went over the monthly reports for February with each Chief. Nothing to be added. Fire Marshal Zordan went over his report stating the Fire Marshal’s Office is very busy. Went over open projects and introduced John Sokolowski, new Per DM Fire Inspector.
- VI. **Ledger Status** – Ledger status tabled until next month’s meeting.
- VII. **Old Business** –
 - Radio System Update- Chief Trommer, nothing new to report. Possible hiring of a consultant for phase two of project. Kick off meeting to be scheduled but Chief does not know anything about it. There have been many problems with current radio system lately, we need answers to what is going on as far as progress with new system.
 - Truck 2 Update – Deputy Chief Nesklada gave an update. Truck 2 is here and training has been scheduled.
 - Grant Update – Assistant Chief Lapierre gave update and Chief Trommer gave updates. Chief Lapierre reported he is close to submitting a new grant for a drone. An addendum has been finished up for the Saver Grant that was sent to us for the electronic sign outside of Company 1. Will be submitted tomorrow.

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John O. Stoddard
Town Clerk

Chief Trommer advised that an AFG grant was submitted for personal thermal images for all the Scott packs in the department. They are called Seek Thermal Imagers. They will replace our larger thermal imagers in our engines. Will work with our MES vendor on this.

Although not a grant topic, Chief Trommer advised that our ISO review is in. Waiting to hear from our ISO representative. Everything was submitted and we are waiting on final documentation to come back to see what the rating is. Hoping to continue with ISO rating of a three which is the best we can do for a volunteer fire department. Should hear in the next week or two.

- Space Needs – Submitted memo to the Town Council, will wait to see where it goes.
- Tablets and Alpine Software – Chief Regina – Moving ahead on transition. Alpine support to load information this evening. MDT installed in vehicle, needs some reconfiguration for Town IT department for security they require. Company 1 has started to use for reporting and is working great.
- RFP Update – No updates
- Chief Evaluations – All Chief evaluations have been done except one. Evaluations went well. Commissioners all stated we are lucky to have the staff we have.

VIII. New Business –

- Commissioners and Chief will be attending and testifying at the State Legislative building on Friday March 24th at 11:00 AM. This is bill 5250 which has to do with the PFAS foam.
- Chief Trommer received a report from the Wethersfield Fire Department about their Fire Department. In the report there were several bullets referring to our Fire Department. In the report they recognized how they should mirror what Newington does for Recruitment and Retention and Training. Hats off to Chief Stegmaier and his staff for all their hard work in getting new recruits and all the amazing programs they coordinate. Also hats off to Chief Regina and his staff for the great training that goes on weekly including the ice rescue drill last month.
- Chief Trommer – This year the Chiefs had to pay into their Chief's cars for the first time ever. A policy was found that exempts Fire Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs from this. Would like Commission to

Speak to Finance Director to see if anything could be done about this.

- Fire Department Pension- Would like to discuss but will wait until after the budget process is finished.

IX. Public Participation – Chief Trommer – The Departments response to the last couple of fires was tremendous. Great stop to the fire on Edward Street. Calls have gone up 46% just in February alone. Mutual aid is up 100% including now going to West Hartford to cover which we never did before.

Chief Trommer Sr. – Newington does not know what they have in our Fire Department. The Fire Department is the biggest asset they have and everything has changed so much over the years.

X. Commissioners Remarks -

Commissioner Stoddard - The Fire Department and the Fire Marshals Offices are what they are because of the great leadership.

Commissioner DeMaio – Communication is the key to what the command staff officers do for the Department. Hats off to the entire Department for the outstanding job done on a daily basis.

XI. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Chairman Whalen, seconded by Commissioner Stoddard. Meeting adjourned at 7:45. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by: Sherri Leghorn, Fire Department Secretary