



James Krupinski
Acting Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

1485 Main Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Board of Fire Commissioners

April 13, 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 7:10 PM by Chairman Whalen. Meeting began with Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.
- II. **Attendance** – Chairman Brian Whalen, Commissioner, Commissioner Frank DeMaio, Chief Jeff Trommer, Assistant Chief Lapierre, Deputy Chief Stegmaier.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner DeMaio made a motion to approve the March 16, 2023 minutes, Chairman Whalen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Public Participation** – None
- V. **Communications**- Commissioner DeMaio went over the monthly reports for March. Zach Miller was congratulated for his promotion to Staff Captain of the Personnel Division.
- VI. **Ledger Status** – Ledger looks good. We will continue to make needed purchases for this fiscal year. Chairman Whalen made a motion to accept ledger status and Commissioner DeMaio seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- VII. **Old Business** –

- Radio System Update- Chief Trommer, there have been a couple of meeting in the last few weeks. Moving in a positive direction. Equipment should be in by the end of July or early August. If everything goes as planned should be online by January 2024.
- Truck 2 Update – Chief Trommer, most of the training has been done on new truck. In the process of placing equipment where it should be installed and then it will go to Highway Garage for mounting. Should be on the road in a couple of months. Don't want to rush.
- Grant Update – Assistant Chief Lapierre, Safer Grant has been awarded to the department for a digital sign outside of Headquarters. The Town Council has to accept the grant. Will take a little while as all permits and guidelines will be followed with all necessary Town departments. There is a drone grant out that Walmart and Sam's Club are big players of. Going to see them and get paperwork done to submit.

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Adam O. Lapierre
Town Clerk

Grant writer for the Town is looking for grants to apply for for Fire Prevention for a trailer.

- Space Needs – No updates.
- Tablets and Alpine Software – Chief Regina, Had a meeting with IT and tested the system. Will be transiting the system to Engine 1. Deputy Chief Nesklada will handle. Hope to have system up in July.
- RFP Update – Spoke with Company. Hoping for a July 1st start date.
- Autism Fund Raising – Chief Stegmaier, Going well, lots of sponsors coming in. T-shirts are selling well, had to order more shirts. Board of Education wants to do an Autism fund raiser for us. John Patterson principal started it and ended up going district wide. They are hoping to raise enough money for the Chief level donation. Truck is really bringing the community together. Lots of events coming up.
- ISO Update – Rating has come back and we have maintained our class 3 rating. Will be meeting with ISO representative next month to see what we can do to bring the rating to a class 2. Only 17% of fire departments nationally have a class 3 rating. Very impressive and good for our town. ISO is an organization that dictates what you pay for your home owners insurance, the better the number the lower your insurance rates are.

VIII. New Business –

- Pension Plan – Met with Finance Director on pension plan. The real old plan cannot be touched but looking into how the new plan we have can be enhanced for current members.
- Pay Per Call – An increase to pay per call and stipend were put into next year's budget. So far the request has not been cut. This increase is trying to bring the amount up to what surrounding towns are getting. Should start July 1st if passed. Yearly stipend was also requested to be increased.
- Fire Marshal Class – A memo will be going out on with information on a Fire Marshal class. Anyone interested should contact Fire Marshal Zordan. The class will be starting in September. This would allow you to apply for any future openings in the Fire Marshal's office.
- Foam Remediation on Engines – Commissioner's DeMaio and Whalen went to testify at the State Capital a few weeks ago. Huge concern. Approximately 482 fire trucks in the state of Connecticut

still have the foam on it. This foam causes cancer. Need approximately 27 million to get trucks done. Hoping this will come through and we can get our six engines done and then start using the new foam. Our foam trucks are currently locked down. Thank you to our House Representatives and Senators for putting through this bill.

- Motion by Commissioner DeMaio and seconded by Chairman Whalen to accept new business from the floor. Motion passed unanimously.
- Chief Regina – Rocky Hill Fire Chief requested us to attend a meeting in Middletown for the Task Force. Met with Middletown Reserve Officers to have them come in for heavy rescue. We will train with them so we can start the evolutions while they are responding to the call.
- Fire Marshal Zordan – Discussed policy for take home cars in the Fire Marshal's Office for out of town employees. The Fire Commission has given authority to take cars home but will look into getting a written policy.

IX. Public Participation – Chief Trommer – Will be attending the next town council meeting to present a comprehensive study of the age of the our firehouses and all of our vehicles.

Fantastic job on the Autism events. Members have stepped up to support this project.

X. Commissioners Remarks - Commissioner DeMaio – Command staff is on top of everything. Nice job by Chief Lapierre on grant writing. All members are outstanding.

Chairman Whalen – Family effort that makes the department so good. Chief Trommer and his staff have made this department second to none.

XI. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Chairman Whalen, seconded by Commissioner DeMaio. Meeting adjourned at 8:00. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by: Sherri Leghorn, Fire Department Secretary