



James Krupienski
Acting Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

1485 Main Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Board of Fire Commissioners

May 11, 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 Frank DeMaio, Kent Stoddard, Chief Jeff Trommer, Assistant Chief Lapierre, Deputy Chief Stegmaier, Deputy Chief Regina, Council Liaisons Tim Manke and Mitch Page.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner DeMaio made a motion to approve the April 13, 2023 minutes, Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Public Participation** – None
- V. **Communications**- Commissioner DeMaio went over the monthly reports for April. Fire Marshal Zordan spoke about his report and added that Mike Salonia is on a leave of absence for six months. He also stated they are very busy with inspections with all the development going on in town. The site at 3333 Berlin Turnpike is a problem for the Fire Department regarding MDC. Chief Trommer has put out a directive that we are not to put apparatus on the site as they cannot guarantee the site will be able to hold our equipment. Not risking losing equipment when no lives are at risk. This will continue until they can guarantee the site can hold our equipment. Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to accept communication and Commissioner DeMaio seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **Ledger Status** – Commissioner Stoddard questioned fringe benefits account. Still high as pay per call is included in balance and checks will be going out next week. Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to accept ledger status and Commissioner DeMaio seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- VII. **Old Business** –
 - Radio System Update- Chief Trommer, continues to be moving in a positive direction. Weekly meetings continue. Equipment should be at vendor by July or early August and then will begin installation. Callahan site is still waiting to be finalized, working on it.
 - Truck 2 Update – Chief Nesklada, training continues. Will continue as long as it takes, will not rush. Chairman Whalen will be scheduling a time for Town Council to see the truck.

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[Signature]
Town Clerk

- Grant Update – Assistant Chief Lapierre, getting quotes for installation of sign and then will make decisions. Would like to use one vendor if possible but will see how quotes come in. Continue to work with the town to follow all the proper channels.
- Space Needs/Apparatus review – No updates on space needs, waiting on building committee. Committee now has enough members to have a quorum but is not filled. Presented the Town Council a power point presentation at last meeting on apparatus, went well.
- Tablets and Alpine Software – Chief Regina, Fire Marshall's Office has started to use the new system. Testing going on on Engine 1, going well.
- Autism Fund Raising – Chief Stegmaier, going well, T-shirts continue to be selling well, had to order more shirts again. Have made back money that was spent and everything from now on is profit for donation. Several events coming up,

VIII. New Business –

- Awards Night – June 3rd at the Farmington Club. Invitations have gone out.

IX. Public Participation – Chief Trommer – Would like to recognize Recruitment and Retention Division. Doing an amazing job with several events. Prom Promise huge success received emails saying what a great job was done. Also recognize Training Division. Live burn was attending buy 99% of members. Tremendous turnout on all drills.

Had a meeting with the ISO representative. We are a high class three, very close to a class two. Goal is to be a class two by next July.

John Montano – Congratulation to Commissioner Stoddard on his award by the Town Council for fifty years of service. Reward was actually volunteer of the year which included fifty years of service.

Chief Nesklada – Memorial Day parade is May 27th. Went over the days schedule. The old firehouse will be open.

Chief Stegmaier – Steadily getting new applicants. Hope to swear in six new applicants by the end of June.

Chief Trommer – Pleasure to be working with Department Inc. again after a long time, happy to have them back. Doing a great

job for us and want to keep the great relationship going.

Commissioner DeMaio – Not speaking as a commissioner, speaking as president of Newington Veteran’s Association. On May 20th at 10:30 AM a portion of the roadway in front of Company 5 will be dedicated to the Newington Veteran Firefighters. Would like to see a nice attendance.

X. **Commissioners Remarks** - Commissioner Stoddard – Hope to start to get something done on Company 4 space needs soon. Working with a representative from MDC to help get the process going to get the two rating for ISO.

Commissioner DeMaio – Mirror Chief Trommer’s comments. Has attending many of the recent trainings and very impressed. Great job by Jordan Stergakis and his staff on all the community events.

Chairman Whalen – Say every meeting the success of the starts at the top with the Chief’s and goes down to each and every firefighter. So much goes on behind the scenes that the public does not see. Thank you to the Town Council for approving the Fire Department budget.

XI. **Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Stoddard, seconded by Commissioner DeMaio. Meeting adjourned at 7:40. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by: Sherri Leghorn, Fire Department Secretary