



TOWN OF NEWINGTON

1485 Main Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Board of Fire Commissioners



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

August 17, 2023

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, Commissioners Frank DeMaio and Kent Stoddard, Chief Jeff Trommer, Deputy Chief Regina, Deputy Chief Stegmaier, Council Liaison Mitch Page.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner DeMaio made a motion to approve the June 8, 2023 minutes, Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Public Participation** – None
- V. **Communications**- Commissioner DeMaio went over the monthly reports for July. Chairman Whalen discussed the memo that went to the Town Council and Fire Department members concerning the rules and regulations concerning complaints and discipline procedures.
Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to accept communication and Commissioner DeMaio seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **Ledger Status** – Question on why part time account is used up 50% already. Chief Trommer explained it is because of the fire watch going on on the Berlin Turnpike. The company will be billed and the money will go back into the account. Commissioner DeMaio made a motion to accept ledger status and Chairman Whalen seconded the motion. Motion passed 2 – 0 - 1 with Commissioner Stoddard abstaining.
- VII. **Old Business** –
 - Radio System Update- Chief Trommer, Weekly meetings continue, moving along well. Tentative date to be set up is October. Some equipment here now but coming in in bits and pieces. Meeting next week with the Town Manager and Fred Callahan to discuss Callahan Tower.
 - Truck 2 Update – Chief Trommer, Truck is online and up and running well. Company 2 firefighters trained and qualified.

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2023 AUG 28 PM 2:22

Adam O. Pagano
Town Clerk

- Grant Update – Chief Lapierre, Town Zoning has approved project and Town Council has voted on final approval of digital sign. Email has been sent to Fast Sign to see what next step will be. Thermal imager grant has been submitted. Town grant writer has been contacted to see if there is anything available for this year to apply for. Still waiting to hear on down grant from Sam's/Walmart. Senator Larson did a press release at Company 1 for the Safer Grant with a presentation of a large Cardboard check for a photo.
- Space Needs – Process was submitted to Town Council, continues to be on hold waiting on Space Needs Committee. Post on Facebook did not come from Fire Department, no intention to take space from town playgrounds or open space.
- Tablets and Alpine Software – Chief Regina, currently able to use system. Currently working on getting information into system. Dedicated person from Alpine to work on any problems, meet weekly.
- Autism Fund Raising – Events continue with other touch, Touch A Truck coming up in Newington.

VIII. New Business –

- Deputy Chief Nesklada Resignation – Received resignation letter. We thank him for years of service and wish him well.
- Posting and Testing for Open Deputy Chief Position – Chairman Whalen went over posting. Commissioner Stoddard suggested changing the section of having to serve a complete term as a Company Line Captain to having served as a Company Line Captain taking out full term. Also change must be Officer 1 certified to must obtain certification within a reasonable time frame. Motion to change language made by Commissioner DeMaio and seconded by Commissioner Stoddard. Motion passed unanimously.
- Company 2 New Truck Wet Down – Chief Trommer, Tentative date set for September 9, 2023. Meeting scheduled to discuss.

IX. Public Participation -

Former Chief Trommer – What is the complaint letter and why is it it happening? Membership should be thanking the Chief's, thank you to all the Chief's.

Eric Giansanti - Would like explanation of change in rules and regulations of the Deputy Chief job description. Explanation given, pool is being opened for more members to be able to test and the Board of Fire Commissioners all agree on this change.

John Montano – Questioned change in job positing, tuff to move up in department with Chief's in positions for a very long time. Permanent change in rules and regulations or just for this position? Change is just for this position at this time. Company 4 rebuild, in planning stages at this time.

Joe Valvo - Deputy Chief Nesklada resignation, why not listed under correspondence on agenda.

Sal Garofolo – Why wasn't list used from last testing for Deputy Chief position, list over two years old.

Ioneida Franco – Chief and Deputy Chief's doing great job, have a lot of integrity when reached out to. Only good things to say about Captains and Officers.

Kirk Rosemond – Despite shortfalls and some disappointments the department has had with radios and computers have to commend team for keeping heads up and getting the job done well.

Chris Ferri – Any word on Chapman Street firehouse? Sad building continues to deteriorate. Waiting on town building committee, could be a historic building.

Deputy Chief Robert Regina – Training Division is going to open up an opportunity for everyone in the department to go through a session of interviews with some outside chiefs to help prepare for promotional testing. We are a family and so many good things are happening in the department.

Mike Cassnelli – Not a town resident but wants to say Newington Fire Department is the best in the area.

Kevin Ziegler – Department is in a great place. Respected by other departments. Chiefs are doing a great job followed by Officers and all members. Stop the negativity and continue to move forward.

John Montano – Thank you to Deputy Chief Nesklada.

Kirk Rosemond – Congratulations to Commissioner Stoddard on 50 years of service.

Chief Trommer – Excellent work this month, rescue on Cedar Mountain, person stuck in tree and cars on fire at West Hill Auto. Thank you for everything.

Council Liaison Mitch Page – Grateful to department for keeping everyone in town safe. Department makes the town proud.

X. Commissioners Remarks - Commissioner Stoddard, No remarks tonight, on vacation. Appreciate everyone's comments tonight.

Commissioner DeMaio – Top notch department, continue the great work we do. Let's overcome the incidents that have recently occurred and be the family we are.

Chairman Whalen – Welcome to Town Manager Tom Hutka. Would like him to be taken around to all the firehouses to meet everyone.

XI. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Commissioner DeMaio, seconded by Commissioner Stoddard. Meeting adjourned at 8:04. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by: Sherri Leghorn, Fire Department Secretary