



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

1485 Main Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Board of Fire Commissioners

September 8, 2022



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

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING Minutes

[Signature]
Town Clerk

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IN NEWINGTON, CT

- 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’s Frank DeMaio, Kent Stoddard, Chief Jeff Trommer, Deputy Chief Robert Regina, Fire Marshal DJ Zordan, Town Council Liaison Tim Manke.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner DeMaio made a motion to approve the June 9, 2022 minutes, Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Communications**- Commissioner DeMaio went over the monthly reports for June, July and August. Commissioner DeMaio recognized Lt. Kirk Rosemond, Lt. Lundin, and Lt. Garofalo for completing Fire Officer One. Fire Marshal Zordan sated the Fire Marshal’s Office was on track for inspections. A report from Deputy Chief Stegmaier was read. Included in the report was the Police and Fire Department Golf classic is September 20th, membership status and recruitment/department activities that are coming up and cadet activities. A motion to accept communications was made by Commissioner Stoddard and seconded by Commission DeMaio. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. **Ledger Status** - A lot of projects are getting done but many are waiting on materials for projects that are back ordered. Working hard to get things ordered that are in the budget. We gave about \$5,000 back to the Town for last year’s budget. One large purchase order ended up coming out of Parks and Grounds that we had a purchase order for. Motion to approve ledger was made by Commissioner Stoddard and seconded by Commissioner DeMaio. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **Old Business** –
 - Radio System Update- Chief Trommer gave an update. A meeting was held with the Chief, Town Manager Chapman, Lt. Carlone, and Blue Wing Consultant. All questions asked to us were answered. The system is now back to the drawing board. This is very frustrating. Each day problems get worse, just waiting for the whole system to crash. Major safety concerns with current system. Major problems with radio communication at the Audubon Fire. This project has been going on since May, 2016. Liability is a huge concern. Members of the Department voiced their concern. Dialog between the

Commissioners and members in attendance went back and forth with a lot of emotion asking what needs to be done by them to get the new radio system. We need to let the Town Council know about what is happening. Discussion on how many consultants have been hired for this project. Councilor Tim Manke stated the Town Council does not vote on a consultant. The funds have been approved for the project. Commissioners will contact the Town Manager to set up a meeting expressing the emergency of this project. If nothing is resolved will bring this forward to the Town Council.

- Truck 2 Update –Chief Trommer gave an update. All equipment for the truck has been ordered. The chassis is starting to be constructed in October. Expected delivery is sometime in November or December if all continues to go right.
- Grant Update – Chief Trommer gave update. Grants are still being awarded, we still have not heard anything. We have two grants that we are waiting to hear on, crossing our fingers. Grant awards are announced on Friday's. Most of the awards have been to large cities.
- FMO/FD Fee Schedule- Schedule has been approved by the Town Council.
- Revised Rules and Regulations – Commissioner DeMaio made a motion to table this until the next meeting. Commissioner Stoddard seconded, motion passed unanimously

VII, New Business –

- A motion was made by Chairman Whalen and seconded by Commissioner Stoddard to add a new item to New Business, resignation letter. Motion passed unanimously.

The Fire Marshal's Office received a resignation letter from Meghan Manke. The Fire Commission accepts this resignation letter and wishes Meghan well in her next venture. We thank her for her many years of service.

- Department Picnic – The Department picnic is October 1st at Churchill Park. 170 have signed up to attend. The committee has done a great job organizing and it should be a great day. Well deserved after the last few years.
- Engine 2 - The Town Council has approved to move up Engine 2 in the replacement schedule. Commissioner Stoddard made a motion that the Fire Commission accepts the written specifications of the new Engine #2 Apparatus that will replace the 2003 Pierce

Dash Pumper and will submit a purchase order to the Town Of Newington for this special appropriation by the Town Council. Commissioner DeMaio seconded the motion, motion was passed unanimously. Chief Trommer advised the Commissioners that this must be presented to Town Manager Chapman ASAP as it has a 30 day time frame.

- Chapman Street – Money for demolition is in the current year budget. We need to work with the Town to figure out a plan on how to move forward so we don't lose the money.
- Company 4 – We need to find out from the Town where this project stands. It is in desperate need of repairs.
- Police Department/Fire Department Golf Tournament – Set for September 20th. Biggest fund raiser of the year. Still a few spots open for sponsorships and foursomes if anyone knows anyone.
- 9/11 Ceremony – Small ceremony on 9/11 in front of Company 1. We never want to forget that day. Light refreshments will be served. The Mayor, Town Council members and Town Manager were invited.
- Alpine Software – In the process of transitioning into the new software. Fire Department is working with Fire Marshall Zordan and Deputy Chief Regina to move the process forward. The app has been installed on phones. Slowly rolling out to the Department on a test run right now. It is going to be a great addition to the Department when it is up and running. Tablets are up in the air right now. Waiting on mounts. New IT Director has been hired and is willing to work with us which is great news. The big part right now is the GIS portion. It is a huge project that will not happen over night. IT is working on this. Everything needs to be up and running by December 31st as our current Fire House will shut down on that date.
- ADE's – Captain Garofalo gave an update. All ADE's have been installed in apparatus and cars. All members have been fully trained in ADE's and CPR. All Public Safety Agency's now have the same equipment.
- RFD 3rd Party Billing – Fire Commissioners need to go to the Town to get a RFD to have a third party service for the billing purpose of the new fee schedule. Seven reimbursements have been submitted to The State of Connecticut for Limited Highway

reimbursement. We should expect the Town to receive \$3,500 in the near future.

- Firehouse/apparatus inspections – Need to come up with dates to schedule inspections at each fire house.

VIII. Public Participation - John Montano – Inspections used to be done during Commissioners meeting at each fire house. Why is this not done any more? Chairman Whalen explained that there is a new state law that required us to go hybrid with our meetings and the only Fire House that is set up for this is Company One therefore all of our meetings will be at Company One and we will no longer rotate. Also a question of why we did not have meetings in July and August. Chairman Whalen said that was how it was scheduled when we set up the meeting schedule for the year and will reconsider for next year when meeting schedule is made in December.

Chief Trommer – Thanked the members of the Department for doing a great job on the last four working fires. The members worked flawlessly. The Audubon Avenue fire was like five to six fires in one. Also recognized Company 2 on a great job on the pre extraction at Floors Now. Two people were pinned in a car and they had the people out within minutes. Excellent job. We have had a huge call volume this past year. Communication between the Fire Department and the Fire Marshal's Office is 2nd to none. Working with Fire Marshal Zordan is a pleasure. Thank you to DJ.

Crystal Trommer – Really proud of everyone in the Department. Watched the whole fire on Audubon as she was concerned and was so proud of everyone.

Chief Trommer – Recognized Councilman Tim Manke for sending the Department a nice letter for the Audubon Fire. Very much appreciated. Also thank you to Mayor DelBuono for recognizing the Department on social media and the news.

IX. Commissioners Remarks -

Commissioner Stoddard – There is a lot going on. Appreciate all the comments on the radio system. Spoke to the Town Manager recently about how the Department does things. He was surprised and concerned about how things will get done when people leave. Assured him we always have someone else in the wings. Appreciate everyone and the efforts that have been made. Thankful that all the firefighters that went to the hospital from the Audubon fire are doing well. The department is like a well-oiled machine. Will take the time to speak with the Town Manager on all the issues that have been brought up tonight.

Commissioner DeMaio – Newington is the best fire department in the state based on what he has observed at the fires he has gone to. Proud to serve as Fire Commissioner, retired member of Company One, and President of the Veterans Fire Fighters. He is listening to everything everyone is saying and will do what he can. Outstanding group of individuals.

Chairman Whalen – Also wants to thank the Department for everything they do. Appreciates everyone coming out tonight and expressing concerns and opinions. From Chief down to the newest cadet everyone has their own niche to add to the Department and it's working well. Thank you to all the Department heads that head up the Fire Department and everyone that works under them. Know that the Mayor and Town Manager are there supporting us. We are a big family and everyone cares about each other, past and present members.

X. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Stoddard, seconded by Commissioner DeMaio. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by: Sherri Leghorn, Fire Department Secretary