



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

1485 Main Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Board of Fire Commissioners

October 13, 2022



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

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING Minutes

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- 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 in memory of the fallen Bristol Police Officers.
- II. **Attendance** – Chairman Brian Whalen, Commissioner’s Frank DeMaio, Kent Stoddard, Chief Jeff Trommer, Deputy Chief Robert Regina, Deputy Chief Nesklada, Fire Marshal DJ Zordan.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner DeMaio made a motion to approve the September 8, 2022 minutes, Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Public Participation** – Gary Nadeu asked about the replacement of Station 4. Suggested a good location for it would be the lower end of Seymour Park.
- V. **Communications**- Commissioner DeMaio went over the monthly reports for September and Fire Prevention activities planned for the month. Recently promoted officers were recognized. These included Company 1 - Captain Erik Lundin, 1st Lieutenant Kirk Rosemond, and 2nd Lieutenant Marc Fox. Company 2 - 1st Lieutenant Geoff Anderson, and 2nd Lieutenant Todd Akerly. A motion to accept communications was made by Commissioner Stoddard and seconded by Commission DeMaio. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **Ledger Status** – Ledger status appears to be in good shape. Motion to approve ledger was made by Commissioner Stoddard and seconded by Commissioner DeMaio. Motion passed unanimously.
- VII. **Old Business** –
 - Radio System Update- A meeting was held with the Town Manager after last month’s meeting. Meeting went well and plan was to present radio system package to the Town Council at November meeting. Commissioner Stoddard said this has changed. The State has revoked all licensing for the new system for all towns. This is a huge set back. Language that was used in the licensing process is legally wrong. Do not know how long it will take for these corrections to be made. Will wait for correction to be made and then bring forward to the Town Council. There is a new legal department in the State and they are doing this for all state contracts not just this one.

- Truck 2 and Engine 2 Update –Deputy Chief Nesklada gave an update. Truck 2 is in production and expected delivery is early December if all goes well. Firematic puts an update on their website every Friday with pictures. All equipment for the truck has been ordered and is coming in slowly.

Engine 2 has been issued a job number by Piece and everything is all set.

Fire Marshal's F150 Ford truck was delivered today. Cap is still on order and is not expected to come in until December. There is a problem with the console. Came in with a regular console and should be a police console. Working with dealer on this. Will take time to get everything done on it. Should be on road sometime in January or February.

- Grant Update – Assistant Chief Lapierre gave update. Grants are still being awarded, we still have not heard anything. No news is good news. Still crossing our fingers for good news. Currently we are looking into a grant for a drone.
- Revised Rules and Regulations – Committee has worked very hard on this project. Currently waiting on final piece from Deputy Chief Stegmaier on updated PMP's. Want to approve the whole package at one time.
- Chapman Street – Commissioner Stoddard spoke about Chapman Street. We need to discuss exactly what we want to do and then present it to the Town Council. One option is tearing down the building and swapping properties building a new building. Deputy Chief Nesklada went around with Joe Salamone to look at properties. He advised him that we cannot tear down the building without having another building in place. There is equipment in the building that has to have a place to store. Town Council has discussed wanting to save building because it is a historical building. Company 3 also needs an expansion. We need to make a plan but really need direction. Need an architect. Need to schedule a meeting with the Commissioners and Chiefs and discuss the three different options that we can do.
- Company 4 – Same situation as Chapman Street. Talk about expanding with a second floor. Need an architect. Good time to put money into next year's budget for architect.
- Golf Tournament- Very successful. Don't have final numbers.

- Waterfall Festival- Good turnout. Got some new applications for recruitment.
- Tablets and Alpine Software – Deputy Chief Regina gave an update. The software has been rolled out to 87 members. Next step is to get the personnel records input. GIS loaded today. Need to confirm that it is correct. The system is taking fire calls but still using Fire House. Expected to convert over November 1st.
- Apparatus Inspections- Did not get done last month due to illness and scheduling conflicts. Scheduled for October 20th at 6:00, Company 1.

VIII. New Business –

- A motion was made by Commissioner Stoddard and seconded by Commissioner DeMaio to accept the appointment by Town Manager Chapman to have Fire Marshal Douglas Zordan serve as the Emergency Management Director of the Town of Newington while holding his current position of Fire Marshal. Motion passed unanimously.
- Open position in Fire Marshal Office - Fire Marshal Zordan would like to begin the process of filling open position in the Fire Marshal's Office. Would like to make the position an Assistant Fire Marshall position. Would work within the current budget with a zero increase to this year's budget. The position would be a supervisory role. Work with Town Human Resources to create a job description. Discussion on the clerical portion of the job. Currently the staff is doing their own paperwork and it is working fine. Will continue to do it this way for now. Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to begin the process to fill this open position. Motion was seconded by Commissioner DeMaio. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Public Participation – Deputy Chief Regina spoke about the structure change in the IT Department. Since the change has happened we have gotten unbelievable support. The new director and his staff have been very supportive to the Fire Department.

Deputy Chief Nesklada spoke about reconstructing of Maple Hill Avenue. The street scape designer includes expansion of the parking lot at Company 5. Right now they are just adding an apron but will be looked at again in the next phase.

Company 1 roof is falling apart. It was replaced in 2016. Assistant Facilities Director is working on the project. He has taken hundreds of pictures and submitted to the manufacture of the original roof. Looks like the roof will be replaced under warranty.

Company 2 roof is being replaced at the end of the month. All roof projects are being handled by the Town Facility Management Department.

Fire Marshall Zordan – Spoke about Fire Prevention week. He and his staff have gone out to different schools with the Fire Department and he complimented Jordan Stergakis, Alan Chow and the rest of the Fire Prevention Staff on what a great job they have been doing.

Also spoke about the Audubon Fire. There is an insurance subrogation going on. Homeowner of 139 Audubon vs. home owner's son and daughter in law who lives in Glastonbury because their son was working on the motorcycle in the garage where the fire started. Potential for court actions.

X. Commissioners Remarks -

Commissioner Stoddard –Glad to see that we have gotten some direction from meeting that was held with Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager. The cooperation between Town departments and Fire Department is good to see. Things are moving in the right direction.

Commissioner DeMaio –Finally seem to making some good progress based on meeting with Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager. Thinking of approaching Town Council Liaison, State Representative and State Senator to try to put some pressure on the Attorney General to make things move along in a positive direction for the radio system and make things happen sooner.

Chairman Whalen – The RFP for third party billing for the Fire Department will be going out to bid October 18th per Jeff Barron. Should have by next meeting.

Like other Commissioners have said, excellent meeting with Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager last month. Need to work together to come up with a plan for space needs. This is the Commission that can get this done.

XI. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Chairman Whalen, seconded by Commissioner DeMaio. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by: Sherri Leghorn, Fire Department Secretary