



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

1485 Main Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Board of Fire Commissioners

November 10, 2022



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

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR 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, Commissioner’s Frank DeMaio, Kent Stoddard, Chief Jeff Trommer, Fire Marshal DJ Zordan, Council Liaison Manke, Council Liaison Page.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to approve the October 13, 2022 minutes, Commissioner DeMaio seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Public Participation** – Retired Chief Trommer asked about looking into the Pension Plan for the old retiree’s. It has not been looked at in many years.
- V. **Communications**- Commissioner DeMaio went over the monthly reports for October. A little concerned about Chief Stegmaier report about Company 2. Recently promoted Tony Palazhi was recognized for being promoted to 2nd Lieutenant of Company 2. 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- Chief Trommer gave update. The new radio system is moving in a positive direction. The Town Council approved to submit MOU to the State of Connecticut. Motorola proposal has been received from the Assistant Town Manager to be reviewed. Everything needs to be approved by the State of Connecticut before we can move forward. Thank you to the Town Council for moving the project forward. It is the right thing to do for the town.
 - Truck 2 Update – Chief Trommer gave an update. Truck 2 is in production and expected delivery is now sometime in January. Pushed back a little because of supply shortages. Pictures of progress continue to be shown on Firematic website to view. Cab has been painted.

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- Grant Update – Assistant Chief Lapierre stated nothing new to report from last month. No rejection letters is good news.
- Engine 2 Update – No update. Nothing will be happening for a few years. Will take off of agenda.
- Revised Rules and Regulations – Commissioner Stoddard made a motion that the Fire Commission accepts the revised rules and regulations of the Newington Volunteer Fire Department and will forward to the Town Clerks Office to be recorded. Motion seconded by Commission DeMaio, motion passed unanimously. Thank you to Deputy Chief Stegmaier and his staff for bringing these rules and regulations up to 2022 standards. This is the department bible, all members should read it and get familiar with it.
- Space Needs – Lumping all space needs into one proposal. A proposal will be done and submitted to the Town Manager. Company 4 is priority one, Company 3 and Chapman Street next.
- Tablets and Alpine Software – Chief Trommer gave an update. Everything is moving very quickly. Deputy Chief Regina and Fire Marshal Zordan have been working hard to get data into the system. Tablets will be in all trucks. Maps will show everything in the town, location of hydrants, homes and will pinpoint exactly where the fire is. Dispatch and IT have worked very hard to get project up and running. The project has been a calibration between town departments. Hope to have system up and running December 1st. Along with system everyone has a responder app on their cell phones. Special thank you to Nicco Carlone who has spent endless hours getting equipment up and running.
- RFP Update – Chief Trommer gave update. Four companies have submitted bids to Jeff Barron for 3rd party billing for new fee schedule. These have been given to Fire Department for review. Review will be done on all four having Councilman Manke attend meeting and a recommendation will be submitted to the Town Council on who we recommend.
- Apparatus/Inspections – A few weeks ago the Commissioners toured all five stations. All were in good shape with a few items needing to be addressed. Deputy Chief Nesklada will take care of the few items that need to be addressed. Company 2 roof is getting redone so that solar can be put on it. Company 1 roof is still being addressed by Assistant Facilities Manager. Working on getting it repaired under warranty. He has done an amazing job working on getting this taken

care of. Solar panels will be done in December on Companies Two and Three.

- Hiring Process for Assistant Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Zordan would like to change the hiring process for this position. Once the Town Council takes action on approving the job description the position will be posted for two weeks as required by the Town. He would like to have an outside panel of fire marshals to interview and evaluate the candidates that meet the requirements of the job based on applications and resume. They will score and rank them and then Fire Marshal Zordan and the Commission will hold interviews and make the final selection. Hoping the process can be completed by mid-December with a start date of January. The position is supported by the current budget for the remainder of the year.

VIII. New Business –

- A motion was made by Commissioner Stoddard and seconded by Commissioner DeMaio to accept the job description for the Fire Marshal's office for the position of Assistant Fire Marshal. Motion passed unanimously.
- Discussion on fire pension plan. Deputy Chief Stegmaier explained that right now there is only one statement a year for pension plan and it is based on the prior year. The system needs to be updated. Should be able to go onto computer and see statements. Spoke with Finance Director Janet Murphy and she said that the Fire Commission is the board of directors of the pension plan. As part of the upcoming budget process this will be looked at along with pay per calls and stipends. This needs to be done as we are trying to maintain our current membership and get new members.
- Thank you to Town Manager Chapman for his support to the Fire Department. We appreciate everything he has done for the department and wish him the best in his upcoming retirement.

IX. Public Participation –

Council Liaison Manke - Spoke about the raffle his grandson won from the Fire Department. He won a fire truck ride to school. He had the time of his life and wanted to say what a great service it was to offer this to him. This raffle was done to all elementary schools and ten different children got to ride to school in a fire truck. Great way for us to give back to the community.

Sherri Leghorn - Spoke about the Make A Wish that was done in November. The Department hosted a little boy and his family for a morning of touring the fire house, getting a ride on a fire truck and becoming an honorary member of the Department. It was an amazing morning for everyone involved. Special thank you to Chief Trommer, Sal Garofalo and Jordan Stergakis for making it happen.

Chief Trommer – Thank you to the whole department for what they did for the fallen Bristol Police Officers flying the American Flag over the highways during the processions, and displaying blue lights on all the Fire Houses in honor and support of all Police Officers. Thank you to the Fire Prevention Division for all their hard work this past month. It has been very busy with school visits almost every day. They also participated in the Chamber of Commerce Trick or Treat at the old firehouse along with Company 1 and Company 4 giving out candy.

X. Commissioners Remarks -

Commissioner Stoddard – We have the most sophisticated department that he has come across. He would put us up against any fire department in the country. The department has many good young members that will move us into the future.

Commissioner DeMaio –Have completed first full year as a Commissioner. Thank you to the Chiefs and Members. Very proud to be a part of this department. Looking forward to another three years.

Chairman Whalen – Next meeting will be December 8th where we will have a quick meeting and then get together to celebrate the upcoming holidays. Happy Thanksgiving to the Department and the Newington community. Have a safe Thanksgiving.

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

Respectfully Submitted by: Sherri Leghorn, Fire Department Secretary