



Keith Chapman  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

1485 Main Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

## Board of Fire Commissioners

January 13, 2022



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

## BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

### Minutes

*This meeting was presented as a Zoom Webinar Meeting*

- I. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Commissioner Chairman Whalen. Meeting began with Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Attendance** – Chairman Brian Whalen, Commissioner’s Frank DeMaio, Kent Stoddard, Chief Jeff Trommer, Assistant Chief Tom Lapierre, Deputy Chief Stegmaier, Deputy Chief Regina, Fire Marshal DJ Zordan, Town Clerk James Krupienski, Town Council Liaisons Tim Manke and Mitch Page.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to table approval of minutes until next meeting.
- IV. **Public Participation** – None
- V. **Communications**-
  - Deputy Chief Stegmaier personnel report, Chief’s report, and Training report done but will go over to Town Manager’s Office next week.
  - Chief Trommer discussed IT communications. Deputy Chief Regina and Paul Boutot are meeting regularly to go over IT concerns, things are moving in a positive direction. Starting to work on replacement of computers and tablets in the firehouses.
- VI. **Ledger Status** - A motion to table ledger status by Commissioner Stoddard, seconded by Commissioner DeMaio, motion passed unanimously
- VII. **Old Business** –
  - Radio System Update- Meeting held with Town Manager. Nothing new to report, in a holding pattern. Waiting on pricing from Motorola. Town Manager is contacting FEMA and Motorola to see if COVID monies could be used to offset the cost. System is coming down to dollars and cents and really can’t be cut as we will only have problems in the future.
  - Truck 2 Update – Nothing new to report.
  - Fire House Inspections – All inspections have been completed by Sal Garofalo in the Safety Division. Because of COVID the Board of

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*James Krupienski*  
Town Clerk

Commissioners were not included in the inspections before monthly meetings. The Board would like copies of the inspections to review.

- Assistant Chief and Deputy Chief Evaluations –Forms have been completed by Chiefs. The Commission will meet with Chief Trommer to review the evaluations. Once this is done the Commission will meet with individual Chiefs to go over the evaluation.
- All Chiefs cars are operating well

#### VIII. New Business –

- Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Fire Department budget that has been submitted to the Town. Commissioner DeMaio seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.
- Firehouse Subs Grant – Assistant Chief Lapierre worked with town grant writer Sonya Robinson to submit this grant for replacement of rescue tools. We were approved for the whole grant of \$47,000 that we applied for. This is very good news for the department and the Town. We will continue to utilize the grant writer to apply for more grants in the future. A motion was made by Commissioner Stoddard to accept the Firehouse Subs grant. Motion seconded by Commissioner DeMaio. Motion passed unanimously.
- AFG Grant - \$1,000,000 resubmission has been applied for the radio system. This is a resubmission that we used the town grant writer for. Based on FEMA this is the max amount we can apply for. Won't know for four to six months if we get it.
- Per Diem Fire Inspector – Fire Marshal Zordan asked the Board to approve an additional per diem inspector for the department. He explained that Meghan Manke is taken away from the department for Emergency Management very often because of COVID. He has spoken with the Town Manager and it was agreed that the funds for this position would come from Meghan Manke's salary and Meghan would be paid from another account when she does Emergency Management work. It will cost the department nothing to do this. A permanent position has been submitted in next year's budget for this so this would just start that position early. Inspections are going well with local businesses despite COVID. Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to approve the request for an additional Per Diem Fire Inspector. The motion was seconded by Commissioner DeMaio and motion was passed unanimously. The hiring of this position will be off of a list we currently have from the last hiring.

#### IX. Public Participation – None

- X. Commissioners Remarks – Commissioner Stoddard commended the Department on the recent fire calls.

Commissioner DeMaio spoke about the outstanding job that was done at the fire on January 1<sup>st</sup> on Cedar Ridge Road. He was at the call and was very impressed on how well everything went with all including the cadets. Hats off to everyone for a great job.

Chairman Whalen stated he feels everything is working flawless and thanked everyone. Welcome to Councilor Liaison Mitch Page.

**XI. Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Stoddard, seconded by Commissioner DeMaio. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

**Respectfully Submitted by: Sherri Leghorn, Fire Department Secretary**