



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

1485 Main Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Board of Fire Commissioners

March 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 7:30 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, Assistant Chief Tom Lapierre, Deputy Chief Craig Stegmaier, Fire Marshal DJ Zordan, James Trommer, Guy Pelletier, Anthony Carlson, Nathan Machado, Walter Brideaux, Crystal Trommer, Martin Ball, Kevin Ziegler.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to approve the February 10, 2022 minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner DeMaio. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Communications**- Commissioner DeMaio went over the monthly reports. A motion was made by Commissioner Stoddard to approve communications, seconded by Commissioner DeMaio. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. **Ledger Status** - The ledger status is in good shape. Chief Trommer stated that he will begin making some transfers. Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to accept the ledger status, seconded by Commissioner DeMaio. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **Old Business** –
 - Radio System Update- Meeting was held with Town Manager and Paul Boutot. Continues to be going in the right direction. There will be a CIP meeting on Saturday March 19, 2022 to hopefully move the project forward.
 - Truck 2 Update – All graphics are back. All the questions asked of us have been taken care of and we are in the moving forward stage. Tentative completion date is September or October but will depend on how everything falls into place with Pierce.
 - Grant Update – The Firehouse subs grant has been rewarded to us for \$47,000 and we are waiting for the funds to be transferred to us. At their last meeting the Town Council approved the grant .Once we receive funds it will take approximately three months for the equipment to come in. We should hear something about the Radio System grant in May or June. Waiting on Safer Grant. Chief Trommer thanked Assistant Chief Lapierre and Deputy Chief

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Stegmaier for all their hard work on applying for the grants, it takes a lot of work to get these processed. Will continue to look for grants to apply for.

- Update on formal requests for Company 3 and 4 expansion- Chief Trommer is working on a putting together a formal letter to submit to the Town Council on needs.
- Class D Uniform update – Class D uniforms are in and should be delivered very soon.
- Chief reviews have been done and went well. One Chief left to be done. After July 1st Line Officers and Staff Officer reviews will be done.

VII. New Business –

- Fee Schedule for Fire Marshal Department - Fire Marshal DJ Zordan spoke about a fee schedule that he would like to see implemented for the Fire Marshal's Office. There are many fees that are not budgeted for throughout the year. He would like to propose and put forward a fee schedule for these items. The 1st example for the fee schedule is a firework permit. He would like to see a fee assessed for enough money to cover costs. Not looking for this to be a money making fee, just enough to cover the costs. Currently the only charge is for blasting. He showed many examples of what other towns charge. Would like to do a formal presentation on this. Presently the Fire Department is working on a fee schedule that has been requested by the Town Manager. Both could be incorporated together. This change would just be added to the current town ordinance.
- Engine 2 Replacement – The Highway Department has been monitoring engine 5 over the last five to seven years for a rust issue on the frame rails. The issue has been getting worse. Hermas from Highway Department has proposed to Finance to move Engine 2 replacement up a year in the financial schedule. The Finance Director, Janet Murphy said that it doesn't fit into the lease payment schedule for this year and she does not have the ability to do this. It would have to come from the Town Council level to move it up a year. It will continue to be monitored but it would be a good idea to get this into writing to show that we are monitoring the problem just in case something should happen.
- ISO Review- ISO, Insurance Property Service Organization, was done ten years ago. Staying on schedule is very important to be done so we

keep our rating where it is. This is crucial for the town. We have one of the best ratings right now. Property insurance for our businesses and residents is based off of this rating. The lower the ISO rating the lower insurance premiums are. We are in good shape to keep our number low. Our budget such as radio replacement and firehouse replacement goes into this rating.

VIII. Public Participation –

Chief Trommer commended the department for the two incidents we recently responded to. The first was the horrific traffic accident on East Cedar Street. Worked well with the Police Department and EMS. Very pleased with everyone that was at the scene. Thank you to Wethersfield Fire Department for their help. The 2nd incident was the basement fire at Stonegate Apartments. Fantastic job holding the fire to the basement with no injuries.

Retired Chief Trommer praised the department, he is so proud of the department. He expressed the need for all firefighters to respond to fires. Everyone is part of the family.

IX. Commissioners Remarks – Commissioner Stoddard – Everything is going well and he appreciates all the hard work done by all.

Commissioner DeMaio ditto to Commissioner Stoddard's remarks. Was at both of the incidents that Chief Trommer mentioned in his comments and was also very impressed how the department handled them. Hats off to the Chief for running the department so well. Top shelf department.

Chairman Whalen – Same as above. Added that the department had participated in the drive by in Rocky Hill for now fallen Captain Jim Lamarre. While attending he received compliments from other police departments on how well our department handled the accident on East Cedar Street.

X. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Stoddard, seconded by Commissioner DeMaio. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by: Sherri Leghorn, Fire Department Secretary