



Keith Chapman  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

1485 Main Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

## Board of Fire Commissioners

October 15, 2020

Company 1 Firehouse

1485 Main Street

Newington, CT 06111

7:30pm



Brian Whalen  
Brian Gallagher  
Kent E. Stoddard, Jr.  
Fire Commissioners

*Brian O. Stoddard*  
Town Clerk

2020 OCT 22 PM 12:10  
RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
IN NEWINGTON, CT

### Minutes

- I. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Commissioner Kent Stoddard. Meeting began with Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Attendance** – Commissioner’s Kent Stoddard and Brian Whalen, Commission Chairman Brian Gallagher was absent. Acting Chief Tom Lapierre, Deputy Chief Jeff Trommer, Deputy Chief Craig Stegmaier, Deputy Chief Bob Regina, Crystal Trommer, Sal Garofalo, John Montano, Vic DePamphilis, Melanie DePamphilis, Joe Valvo, Retired Chief Jim Trommer, Chet Bogacz, Collin Whalen, Tim O’Brien, Martin Ball, Eric Giansanti
- III. **Public Participation** – John Montano thanked the department for putting up the black bunting in remembrance of Chief Klett on all Fire stations.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner Whalen made a motion to approve the 08/13/2020 minutes. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion.
- V. **Communications** –
  - Monthly Reports
  - Department Promotions
  - Membership Status
  - Thank you E-mail

Commission Whalen went over the communications.

- VI. **Ledger Status** – Discussion on line items. Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to approve ledger. Commissioner Whalen seconded the motion.
- VII. **Old Business** - . Commissioner Whalen discussed stipends. Stipends will come out at the end of October. The first \$600 on stipends will be tax free per federal government act. Pay per call will come out the end of November. Also through a new federal government act, fire volunteers are able to write off 600 hours a year at \$20 an hour on tax returns if you itemize. If you do not itemize cannot do it. More information will be given when received.

**VIII. New Business** – On October 24<sup>th</sup> Company 1 will be closed and will be being used for the appraisals of the Chief's applicants. A hired company will be there during the day to do assessments on all the applicants. Apparatus will be outside and everyone should plan on getting their gear out ahead of time in case of a call.

Chief Trommer gave an update on the radios. He met with the consultant the town has hired. The information is being compiled to see the best way to go. A report is expected to be complete by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Kent Stoddard and Acting Chief Lapierre met with the Town Manager to discuss the communication system. The Town Manager really wants to push to have the study done before the December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. There have been a lot of issues lately and we need to get a system that is good for everyone. Police Dispatch was flooded with water the other night and the Fire Department set up a temporary dispatch center at Company 1 just in case a fire had to be dispatched. Communications have gotten much better since meeting with the Town Manager. We are on the right tract. The Town Manager wants the committee that is working on the project to be in charge in the future and not have just one person in charge.

The ladder Truck is the Town Manager's number one priority per conversation with Commissioner Whalen and Town Manager Keith Chapman. He is working to get it done. The capital improvement needs to get back on track. Will be part of the regular budget next year, no need for a referendum.. Conflict with Town Attorney and how he feels about having to go to referendum. Discussion on how capital improvement works.

Discussion on Covid issues. Covid falls under Hipaa and any names cannot be released. All people that need to be notified have been notified. Firefighters need to follow policies and we would not have a problem. Policies are not being followed. Wear masks and key in with your own fob. Meeting will be held with Charlie Brown to be sure we are doing everything correct.

**IX. Public Participation-** Chief Trommer spoke about Covid quarantine for the people who might have been exposed. He emphasized that people are following all proper quarantine procedures and tests have been conducted.

John Mantano spoke about the process that is being done for hiring the new Chief. Asked if an outside company had been hired, why, and who approved it. Wanted to know who was paying for it and where the money was coming from.

**X. Commissioner Remarks** – Commissioner Stoddard spoke about Chief Klett and all the good things he did for our town.

Commissioner Whalen welcomed past Commissioner Bogacz to the meeting and let him know if he needs anything we are here for him.

**XI. Adjournment** - Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Whalen. Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

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