



**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
TOWN OF NEWTOWN**

January 22, 2024  
Regular Meeting  
Dodgingtown Fire House  
55 Dodgingtown Rd. Newtown, CT. 06470

Meeting Opened By: Pat Reilly, Chairman at 7:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Pat Reilly, Brian Sharnick, Jay Nezvesky, Tim Whelan, Tom Fitzgeralds, & Jeff Dugan  
Absent: Ron Bolmer  
Chiefs –Chief Murphy, Ass't Chief Paul Basso  
Marshals- Rich Frampton, David Ober, Steve Murphy & Jamilynn Zapata

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIAENCE**

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:** None

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** Jeff Dugan made a motion to accept the Minutes from December 18, 2023 and Jay Nezvesky seconded both motions, Motion Passed unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS-** None

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION-** None

**REPORTS**

- Fire Marshal – Rich Frampton presented December report.-See attached
- Rich Frampton also asked on the status of the new vehicle- Tim Whelan responded that he has proposed that the insurance money along with extra funding be allocated to fund a "Used Certified Vehicle" to replace the vehicle that was damaged by a fallen tree. BOS approved it; it will then go to the BOF and then will go on to the legislative council for approvals. We are still using the PD vehicle (Don't know when the Chief will call it back)

Purchasing Agent – David Ober reported:

- 1099's are in for distribution to departments.
- We will need to transfer funds for Truck Repairs- account down to \$1,158.61 remaining (Budget this year was \$69,510.00/ last year was \$83,400.00 – cut \$13,890.00 from last year)

Combined Chiefs- Steve Murphy has been working with the other chiefs to finalize reduced EMS responses. He will report when completed.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**PPE & Policy** – Brian Sharnick says he had his physical and found the facility adequate, he thinks he can still do better- While there he talked to the Dr./PA that the FD talks to and as far as the Cancer screening, he feels the extra blood draw would be minimal in cost, he thinks we should have continued conversations on this. The fee would be approx. \$75-\$100 extra to our physical fees. They would take the vial of blood put it in a prepacked box and send to their lab. The concern is, if something is found how we move forward with the results per the town and liability. Base line testing should help the town. There will be a lot more to figure out, but we need to move forward to writing this policy. Cancer Screening should be done every year.

Brian also reported that the waiting on the policy to update the radio's and fire ground and emergency alert button, so they can write a town wide policy on MAYDAY, rehab and accountability. We should have a town wide consolidated policy.

#### **Radio/Hydrant –None**

**Truck-** Tim received the 114 spec today, he had planned to meet with the truck committee but time did not warrant that. The truck committee will meet and he will talk to Firematic Rep and he wants to see the proposal (the fine print proposal). He will have a recommendation at the next meeting.

This will be a sole source item.

Pat Reilly asked about the short fall on the repair budget truck repairs, Tim Whelan explained that 331, 551 have had pump repairs that are costly and 441 is in for a significant oil leak that will also be costly. Last year was a good year for that account not having major repairs come through so they took money out of that account. Each year is different as you cannot predict repairs.

**Budget-** Jay went over line by line the budget cuts from meeting with First Selectman and Bob Tait

They presented the budget at 1.64 million and they cut it to 1.5 million.

Jay went over the highlights dept. by dept. and line item by line item. He will continue to update the board as it progresses through each board /council.

This now goes in front of the Board of Selectman for approval (Please attend this meeting)

Then will go before the Board of Finance and then Legislative Council.

#### **OLD BUSINESS-**

**New Radio System-** Mark DeWolfe spoke on the Radio Project-

- Update: Mark and Steve met with Norcom, Mark stated it is imperative that the board / combined Chiefs come up with the policies on mayday protocol and also meet with the mutual aid towns as well.
- Working hard to finalize radio and pager updates: they will need to update every subscriber, every pager, radio, base station, to update the system. Next coming weeks.
- Fire house sirens- \$3500.00 per siren, Sandy Hook's is the only one viable- there was a sizable contingency funds left and should these be purchased through the contingency funds, Mark would like to write a letter to that effect to the First Selectman with the support of the board..
- Did each dept. get an adequate number of portable radios, there is no policy on this but it is felt that (one radio per seat). Hook & Ladder is at least 8 Portables short and other Departments may also be short. Mark feels strongly that these additional radios should also be purchased with the contingency funds as well.
- Radio Maintenance, radio re-occurring costs should be examined- such as buying all the batteries at one time in about 4 years \$40,000.00. This is a town purchased system and these extra expenses should not come out of the Fire Dept. Budget.
- Tim Whelan made a motion that with the BOFC endorsement for Mark Dewolfe to go forward in drafting a letter to the Selectman looking to repair the Fire Departments Sirens, 8 portables for Hook & Ladder. Jeff DuganSeconded
- Mark Dewolfe- in closing, radio installs where included in the cost of the radios, there are approximately 30 extra radios

That have not been installed, so Norcom will either need to pay back the amount for the installs that were not done, give a credit but it need to be addressed. There were also many people that didn't have radios installed.

Portables are still out attempting to be fixed, still waiting on some dept. to get theirs back.

There is a motion on the floor, any more discussion? None-  
all in favor. Motion Passed unanimously.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Hawleyville- gear altered, repair a couple sets of gear that are ripped, add firefighter's names on gear that came in without and retrofit the pocket for the bailout system on 11 sets of gear in the amount of \$4,015.62.

Jeff Dugan made a motion to alter the gear, repair a couple sets, add names and retro pockets on 11 sets of gear in the amount of \$4,015.62. Tim Whelan Seconded

Firefighting equipment of New York- come to fire house to do the repairs and retrofit done in one day. Other companies will need the gear to quote and will have gear for 2-3 weeks to do the jobs.

Motion tabled until next meeting, waiting on three written quotes.

- David Ober- foam removal and tank cleaning 551 and others.  
State Funds available for re-imbursement (while funds lasts/ first come first served) for removal of foam and cleaning of tank  
3 quotes for 551 one came in at \$9,000.+ and one came in at \$10,000.+ Tracy's garage quoted \$  
We have Hawleyville that has bad foam in tank, removal of foam and cleaning of tank, and Sandy Hook cleaning of tank only.  
Dave is working on getting 3 comparable quotes cleaning tanks as need, removal of foam and contaminated water.  
This could be upwards of \$20,000. We need to ask the town to pay and hopefully get the reimbursement from the state. (551, 331, 441)  
Tim Whelan says he is willing to talk to Finance about how to go about this.  
Jeff made a motion for Tim Whelan and Dave Ober to go talk to Bob Tait in regards to acquiring the funding to get the 3 trucks emptied and cleaned of the Foam to be in compliance with DEEP regulations.  
Tim Whelan seconded, Passed unanimously.

**Announcements-** Brian Sharnick reminded everyone that AFG grants are going to be opening up- lets try and do our best to try to save the town some money.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jeff Dugan and seconded by Jay Nezvesky and the motion passed.


Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm

Respectfully submitted from recorded meeting,

*Nancy Schreiner*

Nancy Schreiner, BOFC Clerk

## FIRE MARSHAL'S COMBINED MONTHLY TIME SUMMARY

CODE	CATEGORY	INCIDENTS	HOURS
A	FIRE CALLS	1	
B	FIRE INVESTIGATION	1	
C	FOLLOW UP INVEST.	3	
D	BUILDING & SITE		
	1. Building Inspections	17	
	2. Site Inspections	8	
	3. C.O. Inspections	4	
	4. Suppression & Dry Hyd		
	5. Tank Removals		
	6. Burn Permits	3	
	7. Fire Drills		
E	FOLLOW UP INSPECTIONS	6	
F	OFFICE	188	
G	COURT APPEARANCE	0	
H	PLAN REVIEWS	5	
I	TRAINING	7	
J	PURCHASING	72	
O	OTHER-Rich	1	
O	OTHER-Dave	3	
O	OTHER- Steve		
O	OTHER-Jamilynn	1	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>349</b>
Rich	3 Primrose St. E-lite Test	1	
Dave	Run Fire Pump	3	
Steve			
Jami	Poster pick ups	1	
Dec-23			
		Marshal's Signature	