

Newtown Board of Fire Commissioners  
3/26/12  
Hawleyville Fire Department  
Called to order 7:00 p.m.

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Commissioners present: Burton, Cragin, Descheneaux, Goosman, Jossick, Manna, and Nezvesky

Former Fire Commissioners: Schertzer, McCarthy, McCulloch, Dugan, Schanley, Farrell, O'Keefe, Zilinek, and Swenson.

Fire Marshal's Present: Halstead, Frampton, Ketchum, Ober and Clark.

#### Minutes

*MOTION: Jossick moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of 2/27/12 as corrected.*

*Correction: Radio Committee – codes are for returning.*

*Seconded: Nezvesky*

*Motion Passed*

*MOTION: Goosman moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of 3/13/12 as corrected.*

*Corrections: Under comments Jossick asked that United Fire and Rescue be replaced with Hawleyville.*

*Seconded: Jossick*

*Abstention: Descheneaux due to absence at the 3/13/12 meeting*

*Motion Passed*

#### Correspondence to the BOFC:

<u>Date</u>	<u>To/From</u>	<u>Subject</u>
2/23/12	Will/Halstead cc: BOFC	Dispatch Changes
3/6/12	Cragin/Llodra	Command Vehicles
3/25/12	BOFC/Nezvesky	Town Charter Clarification and SOP's
3/26/12	BOFC/Ciaccia	Fairness by BOFC for all Fire Departments

#### Correspondence from the BOFC:

#### Public Participation

Marty Schertzer – 24 Clearview Drive, Sandy Hook, CT- disappointed in reading disparaging comments in *The Bee* about Chief Ciaccia. It puts all fire departments in a bad light. Comments should be retracted by the BOFC.

## Fire Marshal's Report

- Halstead reported for the month of February there were 77 calls, 449 incidents and 419 hours worked.
- Fees collected for the month of February 225.00.
- Halstead had a meeting regarding fire lanes leading up to the NYA.
- Meet regarding use of schools for full time kindergarten.
- Fire lanes to be marked at all schools.
- Boy Scouts worked with Fire Marshal and Police Department.
- NHS and Newtown Middle School measured for capacity.

## Standing Committees

Budget (Burton): Proposed budget passed Board of Finance last week and is now moving on to the Legislative Council who will deliberate.

Burton stated that during the last six years this Budget Committee has been together, several new programs were developed and incorporated into the BOFC budget that benefitted all of the individual fire companies in the Newtown Fire Department.

Several years ago, the BOFC became aware that all departments were not having their pump tests and inspections. Larger, more expensive repairs were becoming commonplace. More concerning was the liability to the town if one of these vehicles was involved in an accident and contained faulty equipment. The Budget Committee obtained town approval to have these inspections paid for as a part of our budget, saving ALL five companies significant annual expenses.

Five years ago this Committee initiated a furnace replacement program which, to date, has benefitted four of the five companies. This program saved significant money to the four companies who have chosen to participate to date. The program also saved the town significant money. The newer furnaces are more energy efficient, therefore, consuming less fuel, which is paid for by the town for everyone as part of our budget.

Due to the rising cost of insurance, which was becoming a major burden on all five companies, this Committee initiated an insurance reimbursement program allowing the five companies to get insurance payments reimbursed by the Town.

Money was also budgeted for the FRIP. This program has had several benefits to the five companies. All eligible members are allowed a per call reimbursement, whereby, they receive quarterly checks that correspond to the number of drill, work sessions, and calls they attend. This was a tremendous help to all the Chiefs who saw their attendance at mandatory drills increase. Also, getting members to have their required annual physicals done in a timely manner was facilitated by the requirement that physicals have to be up-to-date to receive the reimbursement.

All of these new programs which clearly benefit ALL five companies were instituted in better times. During the past three budget seasons, we had been requested to keep our budgets to a zero increase by the First Selectman.

Although we were able to accomplish this, and still maintain our level of service to the five companies that they expect, we were not able to expand programs. We have been repeatedly asked by the Chief of United Fire and Rescue for a paid driver for his department, but due to funding concerns, the Budget Committee could not grant his request.

We have also been asked repeatedly by Dodgingtown and Hawleyville (as well as United Fire and Rescue before they bought their own) for command vehicles. These requests were not granted, not only due to budget concerns, but were sensitive to CIP requests from our department as well. The Committee did endorse vehicles this year for both Dodgingtown and Hawleyville, mainly because the Chiefs of these departments presented some very compelling reasons to this Committee as to why the investment would benefit the town. We have to realize that the approval of a vehicle costs the town much more than the purchase price. There is ongoing maintenance, operating costs, insurance and then replacement.

Truck (Manna): Completing last of DOT pump tests. Reminder to all companies to back flush all pumps after drafting water from a static water source. Manna will compile a more comprehensive report for next month summarizing the major repairs from this year after the completion of Hook and Ladder trucks.

Radio (No report)

Policies and Procedures (no report): Jossick mentioned creating a new dispatching policy.

Hydrant (no report)

NUSAR (no report)

NH&L Building – investigating alternative sites.

FRIP – rescheduled meeting for March 27, 2012

Purchasing Agent: FIT testing being completed. New form sent to Chiefs for use in the Response Improvement Plan reimbursement.

Old Business – United Fire and Rescue Chief Resolution:

Nezvesky and Ouelette submitted letter on this subject. Letter was read at the meeting (see attachment).

Botsford Fire and Rescue – use of codes – Halstead stated a meeting will take place to discuss codes. Combined chiefs to discuss further. All said through normal radio language except the last three digits

by United Fire and Rescue. Burton feels all departments should follow protocol. Manna stated the use of codes should be on hold until policy is established.

Chairman Cragin stated that codes will remain as is prior to United Fire and Rescue's change. The combined Chiefs will discuss codes and report back to BOFC. Cragin will list as an agenda item at that time.

Cragin spoke to Maureen Will and stated that individual Chiefs cannot make changes without the board's knowledge. Maureen Will is in agreement.

#### First Selectman Llodra

- The Board of Selectman discussed the BOFC's capital requests for three vehicles as outlined below.
  - Replacement for FM vehicle
  - Two command requests for Hawleyville and Dodgingtown.
- First Selectman Llodra stated that the BOS's solution to this is to use the savings from this year's town budget to replace the FM's vehicle and use the current FM for Hawleyville or Dodgingtown. This decision will be deferred to BOFC.
- The Dodgingtown vehicle to be brought to the Town Highway Department - \$10K investment could make this vehicle serviceable.
- This is the strategy the BOS would like to use. Nothing is guaranteed. Cannot make any promises until we get closer to year end as other government levels need to be included.
- The Selectman asked that the BOFC think about this resolution and get back to her by the June Regular Monthly Meeting. Cragin will put this on the agenda for the April meeting.
- Manna – Truck Committee to determine if the money as outlined by FS Llodra is being put to good use.
- BOS – vehicles would remain under the jurisdiction of the BOFC.
- Jossick – it is only a temporary fix.

#### New Business

2011/2012 – Capital Equipment Request: Outlined bids received from various companies. 11 items were not bid on. Options to take bids as they are or reject them and rebid everything.

*MOTION: Manna moved to re-bid the 2011/2012 capital list.*

*SECONDED: Goosman*

*Motion passed*

**Training Requests**

**MOTIONS:**

*Jossick moved to approve Hawleyville's request in the amount of \$45.20 for food reimbursement from the October 29, 2011 storm.*

*Seconded: Goosman*

*Motion passed unanimously*

*Descheneaux moved to approve Dodgingtown's request of \$350 for Danbury Burn Building fee.*

*Seconded: Jossick*

*Motion passed unanimously*

*Jossick moved to accept Hawleyville's training requesting in the amount of \$1200.00 for Class Q training for 4 ppl.*

*Seconded: Nezvesky*

*Motion passed unanimously*

*Manna moved to accept NH&L's training request in the amount of \$2750.00 for FF 1 & 2 Certification courses; Blood borne pathogen and Hazmat refresher for all members.*

*Seconded: Nezvesky*

*Motion passed unanimously*

*Burton moved to accept Sandy Hook's training request in the amount \$2900.88 for Scott Airpak repair class; vehicle extrication A Practical Guide; extrication class for 3; Airfare to Ohio extrication class for 3; car rental; and food for OSHA day training.*

*Seconded: Goosman*

*Motion passed unanimously*

Moved into Executive Session at 7:58 p.m. to discuss personnel - out at 8:55 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Terry Hennessey*

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