

Newtown Board of Fire Commissioners
4/23/12
Sandy Hook Fire Department
Called to order 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Minutes

MOTION: Nezvesky moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of 3/26/12 as corrected.

Corrections:

- *Under Old Business change to will not be used.*
- *United Fire and Rescue should be Botsford Fire and Rescue.*

Second: Goosman

Motion Passed

The letter written by Chief Wayne Ciaccia to BOFC regarding his letter to John Kortze is attached to the minutes as requested.

Correspondence to the BOFC:

Date	To/From	Subject
------	---------	---------

Correspondence from the BOFC:

3-27-12	Tait/Cragin	Rebidding of Capital Items
3-27-12	Ross/Cragin	Ryan Clark's pay rate established at \$18 per hour

Public Participation - none

Fire Marshal's Report

- Halstead reported for the month of March there were 76 calls, 609 incidents and 408 hours worked.
- Fees collected for the month of March \$310.00.
- Halstead attended a Safety Committee meeting and inspection.
- Halstead responded to suspicious package.
- Site review of 12 Queen Street.
- Frampton conducted fire drill at Children's Adventure Center.
- Frampton responded to a complaint of a blocked suppression tank – Winter Bros.

Standing Committees

Rec'd. for Record 5.18 2012
Town Clerk of Newtown 10:30am
Debbie A. Aurelia

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

Truck (Manna):

- #221 continues to have electronic issues. Working with Firematic for a resolution.
- #449 is having a problem with an ABS sensor and Telmar retarder. Gowans will be addressing those issues.
- Engine #1 went to Gowans and Knight for an on-board compressor issue and was repaired.
- #339 went to Gowans and Knight for dump valve repair and tire rotation. Found two objects embedded in tires while doing so. Repaired as needed.
- #331 is having on board compressor issues and will be going to Gowans and Knight for repair.
- DOT and pump tests complete.

Radio (No report)

Policies and Procedures (no report)

Hydrant – Nezvesky reported that we need clarification on use of water from the water company as we were running out of water trying to put out a brush fire at the town dump. At this time no action will be taken.

NUSAR (no report)

Purchasing Agent: Burton submitted training balances as requested by the chiefs.

FDRIP Committee (Manna) met on the 28th of February – this is a correction to the February meeting. Meeting actually took place on April 11th.

- Discussed impacts of the past storm to the program.
- Should a cap be put on the amount to be reimbursed? - Each situation will be handled individually.
- Paid drivers cannot be added on due to the account being depleted too quickly.
- Will try in the future to request more money for this account.
- A good dividing factor would be for interior and non-interior firefighters.
- Suspending the paid driver for storm standbys during the week and holidays. Currently, drivers are not paid on the holidays.
- The program is working and we need to keep trying to increase the dollar amount.

Old Business

Fire Marshal Vehicle

- Manna thanked First Selectman Llodra for bringing forward to the board the FM vehicle concept at our last meeting:

- This may not be the best solution for the tax payers or the Board. Who will own the vehicles in the end? The departments don't want the liabilities for repairs. Move forward with replacing the FM vehicle as planned. Dodgingtown put \$10K towards a new vehicle using insurance and capital be removed from budget. \$20K purchase for 2012-2013 budget.
- Current Marshal Vehicle – used by Hawleyville for one year. 2013-2014 have insurance removed, use trade in monies from current FM vehicle, and any other funds they can obtain from their operating budget. Cragin asked that the notes be typed up for this meeting when Cragin meets with the First Selectman, which would include Manna, Burton and Nezvesky.

MOTION:

- *Manna moved that we replace the current FM vehicle using the 2011-2012 funding as proposed.*
- *Purchase a new vehicle for Dodgingtown in the 2012-2013 budget using encumbered money from 2011-2012.*
- *Dodgingtown would give up their insurance for 2012-2013.*
- *Give the current FM vehicle to Hawleyville for one year will remain a town-owned vehicle.*
- *Purchase a new vehicle for Hawleyville in the 2013-2014 budget taking their insurance out of the budget, their capital from the 2012-2013.*
- *Using residual funds from the 2012-2013 operating budget and any trade in value to the old FM vehicle.*

Second: Jossick

Motion Passed

Burton feels this is the best option for the taxpayers. Halstead would like to be involved with the spec writing. White feels the truck committee did a good job.

Manna asked that the entire Truck Committee meet with Pat Llodra to present this concept.

New Business

New Capital Bid List – Burton presented the new list to the BOFC for their review.

MOTION: Burton made a motion to accept the Capital Bid List for 2011-2012 as presented with two exceptions; the low bidder for the saw will be MES – quantity is 3 not 2; the low bidder for the plastic liter is MES not Gowans and the preferred hose line is North American from Firematic.

Second: Nezvesky

Motion Passed

Gear was changed so new spec had to be sent out and only one bid came back so had to be sent out again bringing us to the current date.

Training Requests

MOTION: Burton moved to approve Sandy Hook's request in the amount of \$7456.40.

Second: Jossick

Motion Passed

MOTION: Jossick moved to approve Hawleyville's request in the amount of \$1,925.

Second: Descheneaux

Motion Passed

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Hennessey

Terry Hennessey



Botsford

FIRE & RESCUE

P.O. Box 335 BOTSFORD, CT 06404 (203) 270 4388 FAX: 270 4397

March 26, 2012

Board of Fire Commissioners

What I am concerned about and caused me to write a letter to Chairman Koertze, is the need for fairness by the Board for all the fire departments. Right now there are certain board members who consistently ignore the legitimate needs of some of the fire departments and act arbitrarily toward them.

For instance, for a long time, Botsford has had a need for a paid day time driver during the week. Our district has Masonicare, Lockwood Lodge, 2 schools, a growing commercial district as well as a large residential population. Right now I am the only coverage (unpaid) for weekday mornings and afternoons as a driver. For the last four or five years Botsford has tried to get this item approved in the budget. Last year, the Botsford Commissioner Jay Nezvesky asked for a paid driver for Botsford to be put in the budget. He was told the matter had to be referred to the Response Program Committee. I called Rob Manna, the head of the Committee and was told that he needed an OK from Chairman Kevin Cragin before he could call a meeting. Jay emailed the Chairman and asked him to authorize Rob Manna to call the meeting, so we could present our request. Chairman Cragin refused to authorize a meeting. No reason was given.

In addition in his email, Chairman Cragin stated about me "In regards to Wayne ... he is not a fire commissioner and has no business getting involved with the Board of Fire Commissioner's board level activities. This includes contacting Cr. Manna and trying to schedule a Response Committee meeting. You need to keep Botsford Fire Co. Committee work on a committee level...".

How can we get the paid driver approved if you will not even call a meeting to consider it. As Jay Nezvesky replied - the board should honor any request of a Chief to meet with a Committee.

Even in small matters some members act arbitrarily and nitpicky.

Board of Fire Commissioners
March 26, 2012
Page 2

For instance, last year in Botsford's budget we had five radio installations approved. Botsford with its own money through fund raising bought a new tanker. We had the cab and chassis delivered before the tanker itself arrived and we were using it for training purposes. We requested a purchase order for a radio installation in the new cab. Commissioner Burton refused to allow the installation even though we needed it and it was a budget approved item. We finally installed it and paid for it ourselves. Only after months of wrangling, did we eventually get reimbursed.

I can give other examples.

But we don't need this. What I am asking the Board is to be responsive and fair to all the departments in town. We are all in this together and we should be working together.

Sincerely,

Wayne Ciaccia, Chief
Botsford Fire & Rescue