

TOWN OF NEWTOWN
NEWTOWN, CONN.



**BOARD OF FIRE
COMMISSIONERS**

Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Monthly Meeting
February 25, 2013
7:04 p.m.
Sandy Hook Volunteer Fire and Rescue

Commissioners Present: Cragin, Burton, Descheneaux, Goosman, Jossick, Manna, and Nezvesky
Marshal's present: Halstead, Frampton, Ober and Clark

Opening Comments from Chairman Manna - none

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Goosman moved that the minutes of 1/29/13 be approved as corrected.

Seconded: Burton

Correction under Combine Fire Company Event: The Newtown PD and Volunteer Ambulance Corp would possibly be invited to this event depending on activities.

Motion passed unanimously

Correspondence from the Board:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>From/To</u>	<u>Subject</u>
2/18/13	Manna/Stockel	Thank you letter to Ridgefield Playhouse for their \$50,246 donation for first responders and victims of 12/14

Correspondence to the Board:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>From/To</u>	<u>Subject</u>
2/13	Tevnan/Cragin	Invitation to First Responders to have dinner on the Knights of Columbus at the St. Rose fish fry anytime between 5-8 p.m. on March 15 th .
2/19/13	Rivera/BOFC	First Responder Events – Lack of Communication to Fire Companies
1/21/13	Newtown Country Club to Manna	First Responders Day Event – May 5, 2013.

FM Halstead addressed the Rivera letter and commented that some events are set up on short notice, and the First Selectman's office is completely overwhelmed with emails for these events. Halstead sends this information as soon as he receives them to the ambulance corps and fire departments. No one is being left out intentionally.

Public Participation:

Kris Peterson, Chief of the Newtown Ambulance Corps, and Harold Evans addressed the Commission regarding communications between the corps and the BOFC and fire departments. They would like to receive email addresses, phone, and information on members of the Board and events for first responders. They never received information on the narrow banding that is taking place. FM Halstead stated that the prior chief of the Ambulance Corp advised him two years ago the Corps would like to take handle their own narrow banding.

Cragin suggested that the Ambulance Corps review all minutes filed with the Town Clerk's office to be kept current on town activities between agencies, boards, councils and commissions.

Marshal's report for the month of January

There were 110 calls, 570 incidents, 425 hours, \$68,800 in damages.

Halstead:

- Site review for propane tank at AFS
- Narrow banding starting on 2/26/13. The Ambulance Corps is welcome at 1 p.m. to do their narrow banding at Sandy Hook.
- Frequency channels are attached to the minutes.
- ID's need to be checked on the radios.
- Hawleyville – asked for stickers to be made for portable radio identification.

Frampton:

- Fire Drill Children's Adventure Center
- Sprinkler problem at 42 High Bridge Road
- Burn Permit Complaint – 54 Huntingtown Road
- Investigated gas meter leak.

Committee Reports:

Combined Chiefs Report – no report

- Chiefs met last week. There is insurance coverage for stress disorder. Individuals should fill out a form and register their names with the VFIS.
- Standardized Equipment determined: air packs, meters, TIC, Hurst (extrication) equipment, struts, saws, chain and vent, airbags, and 5" hose.
- Updating SOG for fire ground channels will take place.
- There was a favorable response to Descheneaux' combined event initiative.
- Weather station at EOC for checking wind speed.
- Check with State for cots for firehouse.

Budget – Burton reported:

- CIP was approved as presented to the Legislative Council.
- Budget committee will meet between now and the next meeting to discuss the Chairman's idea of a large capital purchase for each fire company on a rotating basis within our operating budget.

Truck – Jossick reported:

- Annual DOT pump testing is continuing.
- #551 had a tank issue repaired as well as the foam system. Tank damage was not covered under UPF's warrantee and the committee is investigating whether it is a Pierce liability or UPF's.
- #559 needs to rebuild pump. It will be out of service for another week while parts are on order.
- Stickers honoring 12/14 victims will put on all department trucks. Manna ordering stickers.
- FM truck fit-up is in progress. Currently, there is no delivery date.
- Jossick is requesting from chief engineers to submit their monthly truck reports to him, or another committee member, at the Commissioner's monthly meetings. This will help to address maintenance issues as they occur, to avoid having apparatus out of service and eliminate any unexpected expenses.
- If your department's truck fails DOT, they will be out of service until repairs are completed and the test is passed. There will be no exceptions for company-owned or town-owned apparatus.

MOTION: Burton made a motion that we purchase stickers (in two sizes) for all company owned and town owned trucks to honor the victims of 12/14/12.

Seconded: Descheneaux

Motion passed unanimously

Policies and Procedures no report

- Cragin will get copies of P&P's to commissioners.

Radio and Hydrant – Nezvesky no report

- State fire radio possibly to be put in the EOC and the dispatch center.

Purchasing Agent – Burton reported:

- Ambulance Corps is included in the amount budgeted for narrow banding.
- Hose testing results have been distributed.
- Will meet with the BOS to discuss standardization.
- Nezvesky asked Burton to pay Botsford's bills. Burton replied he is current with all billing, and suggested to Nezvesky to have the vendors correct the address on the bill from Botsford Fire and Rescue and sent to the town. As well, please contact Burton immediately with billing issues and not wait until meetings to address.

NUSAR – McCarthy reported:

March 1st Fund Drive Mailing letter will be sent town-wide.

Old Business:

- Tax Abatement – Sandy Hook requested that the BOFC make some changes to the existing policies and bring to the Legislative Council Ordinance Committee after the BOFC approves.
 - Tiered benefit program – should it be programed the same way as FDRIP?
 - Current policy requires 25 calls – should this be changed to percentages due to differential in call volume? Goosman to make a recommendation at next month's meeting.
 - Life membership should not be automatic and is not in the town ordinance as such.

Combined Fire Company Event:

Some ideas include:

- Coordinated events between all fire departments (contests).
- Touch a truck for PR purposes.
- Manna will appoint an ad hoc committee to determine direction, but this event will take place.

Rental Coverage on #114

- There is no coverage currently. However, additional coverage can be purchased.
- The town will pay for this expense.

Training Requests:

MOTION: Goosman moved to accept food reimbursement for Newtown Hook and Ladder in the amount of \$128.33.

Seconded: Jossick

Motion passed unanimously

*MOTION: Jossick moved to accept Hawleyville's request in the amount of \$500.00 for training funds – FF1.
Seconded: Nezvesky
Motion passed unanimously*

*MOTION: Burton moved to accept Sandy Hook Volunteer's request in the amount of \$3,235.03 for expenses related to Extrication class registration for 3 FF in Ohio.
Seconded: Jossick
Motion passed unanimously*

*MOTION: Burton moved to accept Sandy Hook Volunteer's request in the amount of \$185.11 for food expenses for storm Nemo standby.
Seconded: Jossick
Motion passed unanimously*

*MOTION: Jossick moved to accept Newtown Hook and Ladder's request in the amount of \$1,050.00 for expenses related to Ice Rescue Certification for 14.
Seconded: Descheneaux
Motion passed unanimously*

*MOTION: Nezvesky moved to accept Batsford Fire and Rescue's request in the amount of \$3900 for 5 members FDIC registration in Indiana.
Seconded: Jossick
Motion passed unanimously*

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Hennessey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Terry Hennessey
Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners

SANDY HOOK

HOOK and LADDER

DODGINGTOWN

Newtown Combined Fire Companies

-Incorporated-

Newtown, Connecticut 06470

BOTSFORD

HAWLEYVILLE

Narrow Banding

Portables and CDM1250

1. Fire Main
2. FG1 - 154.76250 MHz
3. FG2 - 158.87250 MHz
4. Blank
5. Fire T/A
6. Highway
7. Highway T/A
8. Fire Police – 154.4450 MHz
9. Southbury
10. Southbury FG
11. Brookfield
12. Brookfield FG
13. Oxford
14. FG2
15. FG1
16. Fire Main

CDM750

1. Fire Main
2. FG1
3. FG2
4. Fire T/A