

SANDY HOOK

HOOK and LADDER

DODGINGTOWN

Newtown Combined Fire Companies

-Incorporated-

Newtown, Connecticut 06470

BOTSFORD

HAWLEYVILLE

December 23, 2013

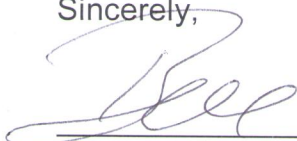
Board of Fire Commissioners
Rob Manna, Chairman
P.O. Box 559
Newtown, Ct. 06470

Dear Rob,

The Combined Chiefs are concerned about the possibility of future apparatus being painted the same color. For decades now each department has shown their individuality by differences in color schemes. The departments' apparatus haven't been the same color since the early 1960s when Dodgingtown became the first to implement a new paint scheme, and purchased a white brush truck. In 1974, Botsford purchased their first piece of lime green apparatus, Tanker 59. A couple years later in 1976, Hook and Ladder received the first town owned ladder truck and the roof was painted white. Finally Hawleyville changed their paint scheme with the arrival of the present 331. Each company in town takes pride in their department, and the colors that represent them. The Combined Chiefs see no reason to prevent each company from having future apparatus be painted in their departments' respective colors.

Along the same lines, we have also discussed the issue of different colored turnout gear. The Combined Chiefs support any department who wishes to purchase black turnout gear. Much like the color of the trucks, we feel that the color of the gear is a departmental preference that provides individuality and pride in the fire service. We realize that standardization is a growing topic in today's board, as it should be. However, that the focus shouldn't be on appearance but rather the performance, interoperability, and financial costs of equipment the board purchases.

Sincerely,



Bill Halstead, Combined Chiefs

TERRY

NEWTOWN BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

PURCHASING AGENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2013

For month of November:

- 41 Hours worked
- 66 Emails were received
- 43 Emails were sent
- 23 Purchase Orders were issued
- 110 Phone calls/texts from departments & vendors

Invitations to bid were sent out for a replacement breathing air compressor for Botsford, a gear washer for Botsford, a gear washer and a gear dryer for Hook & Ladder, and a replacement generator for Sandy Hook's Substation, with a due date of today.

- The bid date was extended until January 2nd for the generator replacement due to inclement weather on the day of the mandatory pre bid meeting
- One bid came back for Botsford's air compressor. Shipman's bid \$ 22,190. This is line with the Department's request, and will be paid for with Botsford's share of the re appropriation from last year's budget, which was \$20,000, and Botsford's share of the donation received from the Sandy Hook Fund, which was \$3000. I would recommend approval of the bid by the BOFC
- One bid was received on the washing machines, from HK Laundry. Two bids were received on the dryer, HK Laundry and Shipmans. There are two different variations of each machine. I will need time to discuss with the departments involved before recommending approval.

The Capital equipment bid has been sent out with a due date of January 13th. I will have a spread sheet with all the items and vendors ready for the January meeting.

All hose has been ordered as per the discussions at the last meeting. LDH was ordered from Shipman's on 12/3, and hand lines were ordered from Firematic on 12/6

There was a discussion at the last meeting on the topic of testing hard suction hose. I contacted Fail Safe. They charge \$25 per length, and would do it concurrently with our regular hose testing. It is a vacuum test, not a pressure test. Repairs could be done at Kocheck.

The first quarter Response Improvement Program data was processed and sent to Advantage Payroll. They are now located in Bethel, instead of on Glen Road. Checks were distributed to all departments.

I met with McKenney Mechanical on 11/13 for a no heat problem. An emergency repair was done to get the heat working. A quote for \$1667 was received to do more extensive repair work to fix the problems. A fan motor and aquastat will be replaced on one of the fan coil units.

I am working on a comprehensive service/testing/ordering schedule for all of our annual requirements. We have had problems in the past when annual testing has gone beyond the 12 month window, and slipped into the next calendar year, which make it look like we missed an entire year of testing, even though we did not. This will also help the Chiefs with advance scheduling to get vendors into the stations to access equipment.

The following mandated items will be worked into the schedule:

- SCBA Flow Testing
- Hydro Testing
- Hurst Tool Service
- Hose Testing
- Hose Purchasing
- Fit Testing
- Station Generator Service
- Alarm Service
- Boiler Service
- Breathing Air Quarterly Service
- Ground Ladder Testing
- Annual Pump Testing
- Pump Service
- Truck D.O.T. Inspections
- Truck Generator Testing
- Aerial Ladder Testing
- All Steer Service for Truck 114
- Engine Service
- Bi Annual Transmission Service
- Capital Equipment Ordering
- New Truck Ordering (When Applicable)
- Truck Fit Outs (When Applicable)