



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING HELD TUESDAY, December 16, 2014
TOWN HALL SOUTH CONFERENCE ROOM
3 MAIN STREET, NEWTOWN

**These minutes are not finalized until approved
At the next regularly scheduled meeting.*

Chairman Mangiafico called the special meeting to order at 6 p.m.

PRESENT: Joel Faxon, Andrew Sachs, Virgil Procaccini, and Paul Mangiafico

ABSENT: Brian Budd

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Michael Kehoe, Captain Jose Rios, Land-Use Director George Benson and 1 member of the press, 2 members of the public
Commissioner Sachs arrived at 6:20 pm.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: none

NEW BUSINESS:

Consideration and Action on Application of Newtown Hook and Ladder – Rob Manna of Newtown Hook and Ladder Company No.1 addressed the Board with the Company's proposal to construct a new 16,000 sq. ft. fire house at 12 Church Hill Road. According to Mr. Manna, Trinity Episcopal Church currently owns the property and would do a first cut for the fire company to purchase. He added that they would share the existing driveway with Trinity Church which exits onto Church Hill Road.

Chairman Mangiafico asked why the company had decided on that location.

Mr. Hanna suggested Hook and Ladder had considered a few other locations but they were cost prohibitive and were out of the center of Town increasing response times to outlying areas.

Commissioner Faxon asked Mr. Manna to outline their Company's district. Gesturing to a map, Mr. Manna indicated Hook and Ladder's district extended as far down as Peck's Lane on Route 25, Church Hill Road to the I-84 bridges, Currituck Road to the highway overpass, Route 6 to Susan Lane, and Hanover Road to the Brookfield line.

According to Land-Use Director George Benson, he did not feel the need for an engineering study based on two factors in particular: the new location would use a pre-existing curb cut (driveway) and there was no way to really track the use by the fire department as it's based on the number of calls.

Mr. Manna indicated that a study done of Route 302 by a known engineer came up with an estimated 1.2 trips a day.

Chairman Mangiafico suggested they look at the impact on traffic and questioned why they shouldn't have a traffic study done. He stressed that the flag pole was a monstrous problem.

Mr. Manna said they went on the advice of Land-Use.

Mr. Benson stated that they estimated the site would generate 1.2 trips a day and indicated that level of activity didn't rise to a level necessary for a traffic study. Furthermore, he added, there is an existing curb-cut, they are driving emergency vehicles, the expense was not necessary for them to go through, and it was the only location they could put it in.

Chairman Mangiafico questioned why not Fairfield Hills. Mr. Manna replied that that they can't afford to build one there and it would increase response time substantially.

Chief Kehoe stated that a traffic study would recognize if it's a problem area and it would provide a traffic count. The Chief added that the flag pole is the elephant in the room and the traffic that's there.

Mr. Benson said he made the decision and doesn't feel a traffic study is required at this point; but he did indicate he would find out if there were any traffic studies done on Church Hill Road.

Commissioner Sachs said he isn't opposed to proposed location and said he doesn't see it any worse than where they are coming out onto Main Street now.

Commissioner Procaccini asked where the 1.2 came from and Mr. Manna indicated that they took the number of calls they had and divided it by 365.

Chief Kehoe asked if support to other companies was included in that total number of calls and Mr. Manna said yes.

Commissioner Sachs said he doesn't think they need a study.

Commissioner Faxon indicated that he was on the fence with whether or not they needed a study. He added that they would be centrally located but need the ease of access and egress.

Mr. Manna suggested that Trinity has been accommodating with Hook and Ladder.

Chairman Mangiafico suggested there be a motion but asked for the Commissioners opinions first.

Commissioner Faxon stated that the main concern is traffic and said that anytime they have a commercial development of sorts he has always seen a traffic study.

Commissioner Procaccini indicated he would feel more comfortable with a traffic study.

Commissioner Sachs stated that his opinion was already known.

Chairman Mangiafico said he has great reservations of the location on Church Hill Road because of the already very severe traffic congestion from all directions at the Flagpole and wants to have the benefit of a formal traffic study to provide more firm data on the implications of locating a fire station at the proposed location.

Commissioner Faxon made the motion to approve the proposal by Newtown Hook and Ladder. Commissioner Sachs seconded the motion with Commissioner Sachs and Commissioner Faxon voting in favor and Chairman Mangiafico and Commissioner Procaccini voting against the motion. The motion failed 2 to 2.

Chairman Mangiafico and Commissioner Procaccini voted against the motion due to the volume of traffic on Church Hill Road and the congested intersection at the flag pole. Both believe a traffic study should be done first.

Commissioner Procaccini moved to delay the Board's decision until a traffic study is conducted. Chairman Mangiafico seconded with Chairman Mangiafico, Commissioner Faxon and Commissioner Procaccini voting in favor of the motion and Commissioner Sachs voting against. The motion passed 3-1.

Consideration and Action on Budget for 2015/2016 – Chief Kehoe presented the Board with the Department's proposed budget for 2015/2016.

Commissioners suggested that there should be a raise for the Chief and the Captain indicated in the budget and suggested that a 2% increase would be appropriate.

Chairman Mangiafico advised the Board that everyone below the Captain is receiving compensation, but compensation is missing from the Chief's and Captain's packages. He

reminded his fellow commissioners they can't just look at salaries they have to look at everything. The Chairman said he favored a 2% increase for the Chief and the Captain and everyone else agreed. He added that this would only increase the total budget by 0.12%. Chairman Mangiafico stated that the increase would bring the Chief's salary up from \$113,850 to \$116,127 and the Captain's salary up from \$101,030.00 to \$103,050.60. Including written recommendations submitted by Commissioner Budd who could not be present for the special meeting, the Board discussed everything from the SSO's and minor editing of the text to the \$74,000 decrease in the cost of the computer software and hardware and the reduced cost of the Fairfield Hills Security over last year. In closing, Chairman Mangiafico asked the Chief if there was a schedule for the budget presentations. Chief Kehoe said not yet but suggested he would try to do it by the end of next week.

APPROVAL OF 2015 Meeting Dates:

According to Police Commissioners the Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm as opposed the previous time of 7:30 pm.

The proposed meeting dates for 2015 are as follows: January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1; and January 5, 2016.

Commissioner Faxon moved to approve the calendar of meeting dates for 2015 as submitted and that all regular meetings for 2015 would begin at 6:30 pm. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

AJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Faxon made the motion to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ted Swigart, Clerk