

TOWN OF NEWTOWN
NEWTOWN, CONN.



**BOARD OF FIRE
COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Monthly Meeting
Hawleyville Fire Department
February 23, 2015

Commissioners Present: Bolmer, Cragin, Goosman, Jossick, Manna, Nezvesky and Whelan
Marshals Present: Clark, Frampton, Halstead and Ober
Chiefs Present: Ciaccia, Rivera, Halstead and Murphy

Chairman Manna called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman's Comments: None

Minutes:

MOTION: Goosman moved that the minutes of January 29, 2015 be accepted as presented.

Seconded: Jossick

Motion passed unanimously

Correspondence to BOFC

Subject

2/23/15	To: Manna From: Burton – Purchasing Agent	Requesting Reconciliation of Hostile Work Environment with Chief of Hawleyville
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Correspondence from BOFC

2/18/15	From: Manna To: Jeff Capeci – Charter Rev. Chair	The BOFC's recommendation regarding the Town Charter Section 4-50, Section E
2/10/15	From: Manna To: Chief John Basso - Hawleyville	Manpower Coverage Resolution for the Hawleyville Fire District

Public Participation - none

Marshal's Report for the month of February

- Halstead will report at the next monthly meeting.

Committee Reports

Combined Chiefs – Halstead reported that he will meet with NextGen personnel and Newtown's IT department to do a demonstration on the CAD system. The tentative date is sometime during the beginning of March. Halstead will advise of date when known.

Truck – Jossick reported:

- The DOT and pump testing is wrapping up.
- Sandy Hook Tanker #9 needs rear brakes which was over the amount planned.
- Most Knox boxes have been installed by Gowans. They will be programmed and placed into service.

Budget – Nezvesky stated the BOS approved the BOFC budget with a \$30K reduction.

Policies and Procedures: Cragin reported that he has been continuously checking the Charter Revision meeting agenda for Section 4 which pertains to the BOFC/Fire departments. He will attend meeting when Section 4 is on the agenda.

Hydrant – no report

Radio – no report

Purchasing Agent Report: (See attached report from Burton)

Traditionally, the BOFC's heating oil is bid through the Town and Board of Ed's combined purchasing power to get the best possible price. We were recently informed by DPW, that for some unknown reason, we were not part of that collaboration this year. DPW is telling us that we must pay market price for not only the oil we have not yet received, but also for the oil we already received and paid for at the bid price.

Old Business:

EMS Supplies – this will be tabled until next month's meeting.

Discussion and Action on amending 2015-2016 Proposed Budget

MOTION: Whelan moved that \$1K be placed into the Other Employee Benefits line item.

Seconded: Goosman

Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Sandy Hook Main Station Boiler Repair

MOTION: Whelan moved that the BOFC pay \$5,413 from an account that the Chairman and Purchasing Agent deem appropriate for the repair of the Sandy Hook Main Station Boiler.

Seconded: Bolmer

Cragin stated that this work should be done without delay.

Motion passed unanimously.

Training Requests:

MOTION: Whelan moved that Sandy Hook's training request for 2 FF for FF 1 Class in Brookfield and Q License testing in the total amount of \$2,712.68 be accepted.

Seconded: Goosman

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Nezvesky moved that Botsford Fire and Rescue's training requests for 5 members to attend FDIC along with airfare and hotel in the total amount of \$5,979.36 be accepted.

Seconded: Jossick

Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Terry Hennessey
Secretary

February 23, 2015

To:
Robert Manna, Chairman
Newtown Board of Fire Commissioners
PO Box 558
Newtown, CT 06470

From:
Michael Burton, Purchasing Agent

Dear Chairman Manna-

Part of my job description as the Purchasing Agent for the Board of Fire Commissioners is to attend monthly meetings at the various firehouses. Throughout the past nine years that I have held this post, I feel my attendance record in this regard has been more than satisfactory.

As you will recall, at the last BOFC meeting held at the Hawleyville Firehouse, I was improperly ejected by the chief of Hawleyville during the meeting. In the past 5 months, this Chief has made no attempt to apologize for his actions, nor has he made any attempts at reconciliation with either myself or the Board. I feel it is the duty of the Board of Fire Commissioners to insure its' Employees and/ or Agents are provided with a work environment that is free from hostility, and conducive to work. As I have no guarantee that this chief will not repeat his rantings of the prior meeting, I regret to inform you that I will not be attending tonight's meeting at the Hawleyville Firehouse.

I have attached my monthly reports and documents that I have prepared in order that the BOFC's business will not be delayed.

Sincerely,

Michael Burton, Purchasing Agent

TOWN OF NEWTOWN
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**BOARD OF FIRE
COMMISSIONERS**

February 18, 2015

Chairman Jeff Capeci
Charter Revision Commission
52 Bear Hills Road
Newtown, CT 06470

Re: Charter Revision Recommendation – 4-50 Section E

Dear Chairman Capeci:

Please be advised that at the special monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners on January 29, 2015, the Board unanimously recommended no changes to 4-50 Section E of the town Charter.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rob Manna".

Rob Manna
Chairman

RM/tah

TOWN OF NEWTOWN
NEWTOWN, CONN.

February 20, 2015



**BOARD OF FIRE
COMMISSIONERS**

VIA EMAIL

Chief John Basso
Hawleyville Fire Department
P.O. Box 68
Hawleyville, CT 06440

Dear John:

It has come to my attention that there is a potential problem regarding manpower coverage in the Hawleyville fire district.

As it relates to all the fire districts, department's struggle for daytime manpower for all responses. In particular, approximately one-third of dispatched requests for service in Hawleyville are being unanswered resulting in an additional company being dispatched.

Understanding there is a daytime shortage of manpower town-wide, perhaps there is another solution to aid in a timely response for a call for service.

Most likely this is only a temporary problem simply due to manpower issues. However, discussions with the combined Chiefs for their input may offer some assistance in finding a resolution.

As well, please advise the BOFC if we can help.

Ultimately, providing the taxpayers with the best fire protection is paramount. Therefore, recognizing and resolving this issue early on is critical. As we all know in the fire service, seconds count when it comes to life safety.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Regards,

Rob Manna
Chairman

cc: David Jossick – Commissioner Hawleyville

NEWTOWN BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

PURCHASING AGENT REPORT

February 2015

For month of January:

- 38 Hours worked
- 97 Emails were received
- 41 Emails were sent
- 22 Purchase Orders were issued
- 82 Phone calls/texts from departments & vendors

Response Improvement Program records for Hook & Ladder were amended and new checks were processed and distributed

After following up with McKinney Mechanical regarding the Sandy Hook Boiler issue, it was determined that approximately \$3300 will be covered under the manufacturer's warranty

Had conversations with highway regarding East River Energy Bills

Ordered additional vehicle knox box brackets

Prepared replacement hose order