

Board of Fire Commissioners  
C/O Fire Marshal Office  
3 Primrose St.  
Newtown, Ct. 06470



Patrick Reilly  
Chairman

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
TOWN OF NEWTOWN**

Regular Meeting  
January 24, 2022 at 7:00 pm  
Hawleyville Fire Dept.  
34 Hawleyville Rd.  
Newtown, Ct. 06470

**Meeting Opened By:** Pat Reilly, Chairman at 7:00 pm

**Commissioners Present:** Patrick Reilly, Thomas Fitzgerald, Brian Sharnick, Ron Bolmer & Jeff Dugan

**Absent:** Tim Whelan, Jay Nezvesky

**Chiefs -** Chris Ward, Steve Murphy, Bill Halstead & Don Digioia

**Marshals-** Rich Frampton, David Ober, Steve Murphy & Jami Zapata

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS -** None

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Jeff Dugan made a motion to accept the minute

Tom Fitzgerald seconded

Passed unanimously

**COMMUNICATIONS-** None

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION-**

Jeff Dugan (Hawleyville) asked to add a Capital Transfer to add to agenda New Business

Chief Digioia asked about Tax Abatement for out of town fire staff- will add to agenda, New Business

**REPORTS**

Fire Marshal – See attached that was presented from Fire Marshal Frampton

Purchasing Agent – David Ober reported that all Capital funds have been purchased, ordered or addressed.

Combined Chiefs- No Report, but is planning to call a meeting next week.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

**PPE & Policy** – Tom Fitzgerald reported that the committee will meet prior to the next meeting; they will go over and come up with a plan on purchasing Air packs with many coming up to expiration dates. David Ober has a spreadsheet of all Air packs that he can supply.

Tom also is looking for suggestions from the Chiefs if they see a need for any changes to policies.

Pat suggested that the committee do a complete annual review of the current Policies.

**Radio & Hydrants** Jeff Dugan reported that they plan to get more tanks cleaned and then address the tanks with issues. Pat said that during the budget meeting with the Selectman/ Finance, it was discussed at length and there will be funds put into the budget. They will also submit a request for \$50,000 to the ARP that was set up.

### **Radio Sub Committee-**

Chief Halstead reported they had a Zoom meeting 12/21/21 1400hrs.

1. Went over the Coverage Maps
2. Under budget by possible \$900,000.00 including all sites.
3. Use portables at head height (speak directly into portable and not mic) in bad areas
4. Inventory-looks good
5. Warranty- for program upgrades
6. Portables & Subscriber Units- Probably 5 year
7. Pagers 3 years at least
8. Sirens- Still in progress

Zoom Meeting 12/27/22 1400hrs

1. Bid on some work (sites)
2. Next Wednesday look at Great Quarter Site
3. Finish end of summer
4. Ferris Road, generator has not been shipped (12/27/21)
5. Can install radios & portables as soon as they arrive.
6. Once Ferris Road (main Tower) is operable- can start using digital.

12-29-21 Contract was signed by First Selectman

**Truck-** No report

### **Budget-**

Ron reported that the Selectman acted on the budget, cut very little, approved \$50,000.00 for tank/hydrant repairs. They did reduce the amount on Physicals (less physicals done then put in for), even though the cost of each physical will go up. Ron also reported that there is a possibility that Hook & Ladder could receive \$15,000.00 from the Borough. If that happens they will apply for the "Build Back Better Program" to get the other companies \$15,000.00. If that does not happen they may increase the contribution to fire 29,000.00 to 30,000.00.

Chief Ward asked about the cut to "physicals" it was explained that they cut the number of physicals \$ to coincide with what was being used from that account, All physicals will be covered. The Budget committee did explain that the cost of physicals is going up significantly due to the fact that Urgent Care is proposing the NFPA standard for physicals.

They also cut the lights, siren and lettering from the Fire Marshal (used) vehicle that was to be for replacement of the old vehicle.

**Fire Admin- Sub-committee-** Brian Sharnick addressed the thoughts of a Fire Administrative and would like to meet with the Chiefs to get their prospective.

**NUSAR-** None

## OLD BUSINESS:

- **Response Improvement Plan (RIP)** Was propose in Sept/Oct 2020, Rate changes were proposed then. 15% of activity has always been the requirement and the proposed said 10%. Also the rate changes: Drills and Work Sessions went from \$4.00 to \$5.00 and Paid Driver went from \$10.00 to \$12.00. Policy Committee will review for next meeting. Everyone believes it should be 15%. It will be reviewed for next meeting.
- **First Due-** Issues - Correspondences with First Due are always slow in getting responses. Pat asked for a list of open issues. He received an email with 5 issues; many issues are from 6 months ago and still have not been resolved..
  1. Re-use of call I.D's,
  2. Incident report that have no St. or zip.
  3. Looking for input from Fire Dept.
  4. Load historical reports into new system.
  5. Historical training reports.

Critical information is still being built, that should have been done back in July.

Chief Ward asked 1. If the annual contract is coming due in July, we should maybe have an alternative.

2. First Due is essentially providing a spread sheet- for the charges they received.

3. He has an email dated June 12, 2021, asking for the Departments FDID number so First Due can submit the calls to FEMA, which is a complete contradiction to the email Pat received stating the Dept. would need to submit them.. First Due has not met expectations of Departments.

Wants to form a committee to look at alternatives-

Committee- Jeff Dugan, Chief Digioia, Chief Ward, Jay Nezvesky, Tim Whelan Rob Sibley.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- **Medical/ Physical Forms-** David Ober talked about the Physicals and the upgrade that Urgent Care would like to make- using NFPA standards for physicals. It was suggested that the Chiefs look it over at their next meeting. PPE & Policy will also look it over. Will vote on it in February.
- **Hawleyville-** is requesting 2 sets gear (1 Set to replace out of date(2011) gear ) ( 2<sup>nd</sup> set of gear for a new member)

Jeff Dugan made a motion to purchase 2 sets of gear for Hawleyville.

Ron Bolmer 2<sup>nd</sup>

Passed Unanimously

- **H&L- Capital Budget Change-** Chief Ward sent a written request a transfer of approved funds for 2 items in capital budget. They ordered 4 Mustang Ocean Commander exposure suits (\$1200.00 each) but are only able to purchase 2, due to the manufacture can't get the materials. They would like to use the remainder of the funds (\$2400) to purchase Thermal Undergarments for all Ice Rescue Suits they currently operate with. Tom Fitzgerald Made a motion to allow the change to the capital purchase Jeff Dugan 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed unanimously
- **Hawleyville** would like to Transfer \$1600.00 from their capital budget for equipment that was being purchased for their "Old" rescue truck that no longer needed (new Truck). They would like to replace that with equipment that will work with their "New" Rescue Truck (tie down equipment). A written request has been submitted. Tom Fitzgerald made a motion for the change in the capital for equipment to be used on the new rescue truck Jeff Dugan 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed unanimously
- **Chief Digioia-** Asked about the Tax Abatement for members that live out of town. This was discussed at some point in 2021. Chief Digioia feels that these firefighters/members should be given the same compensation as the in town members. It was also mentioned that young members, many still live at home don't have any taxable property and cannot benefit from this either. He asked that the PPE & Policy Committee look this over, Other

towns in the area (Brookfield, Monroe) have common circumstances and have come up with ways to compensate (send member a check, send home town check for their taxes etc.) for these members.  
The Chiefs have been asked to compile a list of members that fit these criteria; name and date start of service, so they can present entire information.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting  
by Jeff Dugan  
Seconded by Ron Bolmer  
Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:06

Respectfully submitted,

  
Nancy Schreiner, BOFC Clerk

## FIRE MARSHAL'S COMBINED MONTHLY TIME SUMMARY

CODE	CATEGORY	INCIDENTS	HOURS
A	FIRE CALLS	7	
B	FIRE INVESTIGATION	1	
C	FOLLOW UP INVEST.	0	
D	BUILDING & SITE		
	1. Building Inspections	35	
	2. Site Inspections	6	
	3. C.O. Inspections	1	
	4. Suppression & Dry Hyd	0	
	5. Tank Removals	1	
	6. Burn Permits	1	
E	FOLLOW UP INSPECTIONS	2	
F	OFFICE	198	
G	COURT APPEARANCE	0	
H	PLAN REVIEWS	10	
I	TRAINING	12	
J	PURCHASING	41	
O	OTHER-Rich	7	
O	OTHER-Dave	6	
O	OTHER- Steve	0	
O	OTHER-Jamillynn	8	
	TOTAL	336	401.5
Rich	Run Fire Pump - Municipal Center	2	
	Fire Drill- Reed, Haw	2	
	Deposit- NSB	2	
	NCC- Blocked Egress	1	
Dave	Fire Drills-NHS, CAC	2	
	Complaint- Dodgingtown MKT	1	
	Met ST. FM- 13 Covered Bridge Rd	1	
	Run Fire Pump - Municipal Center	2	
Jami	Poster Contest	8	
December 2021 Reporting Month			
		Marshal's Signature	



TYPE OF CALL	HOW MANY	TYPE/DATE	DESCRIPTION	\$ LOSS	
ALARMS	14	STRUCTURE			
ANIMAL RESCUE (ICE RESCUE)	0				
ELECTRICAL WIRES/ TREES ON WIRES	12				
BRUSH	7				
CONTROLLED/ILLEGAL BURNING	3	VEHICLE			
C.O. DETECTOR	4	12/24/2021 41 Poverty Hollow Rd.		6,000.00	
FALSE CALLS	0	12/28/2021 I-84 Prior to Exit 10 Subaru			
HAZ-MAT	5				
MUTUAL AID	1				
STRUCTURES	0				
RESCUE	1	APPLIANCE			
EMS/MEDICAL	26	12/8/2021 40 Key Rock Rd.- Oven Malfunction			
SERVICE/GOOD INTENT	0				
SMOKE/ODOR SCARE	11				
VEHICLES	2	OTHER			
EXTRICATION	0				
MVA	25				
WATER EVACUATION	0	TOTAL		6,000.00	
CHIMNEY	0				
OTHER-Tree on structure	0				
PUBLIC SERVICE	17				
APPLIANCE	1				
TOTAL	128				
FIRE COMPANY RESPONSE TOTALS					YTD
5130			NEWTOWN HOOK & LADDER	51	373
5131			BOTSFORD FIRE RESCUE	41	217
5132			DODGINGTOWN FIRE	18	165
5133			HAWLEYVILLE FIRE	23	161
5134			SANDY HOOK VOL. FIRE & RESCUE	32	350
			TOTALS	165	1266

Fire Company's Calls 128

The Fire Marshals had 336 incidents and 401.5 Hours worked.

Permits: 0 blasting \$0.00, 1 tanks \$20.00, 1 burn \$5.00, 0 reports \$0.00 Total \$25.00