



**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF NEWTOWN**

Regular Meeting
February 28, 2022 at 7:00 pm
Sandy Hook Fire
18-20 Riverside Rd.
Sandy Hook Ct, 06482

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

Commissioners Present: Patrick Reilly, Jay Nezvesky, Brian Sharnick, Ron Bolmer & Tim Whelan
Absent: Tom Fitzgerald & Jeff Dugan

Chiefs - Chris Ward, Steve Murphy, Bill Halstead & Don Digioia
Marshals- Rich Frampton, David Ober & Steve Murphy

Pledge of Allegiance

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS - None

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: from January 24, 2022 meeting

Jay Nezvesky made a motion to accept the minute

Tim Whelan seconded

Passed unanimously

COMMUNICATIONS- None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- Add to New Business- Discussion on Fire Departments request from Newtown Ambulance Association (NAA) to broaden fire departments response EMS calls when they are short staffed.

REPORTS

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

Purchasing Agent –

- David was contacted by Frank Wolferseder (Alarms by Precision) about moving up the date for Station Alarm upgrades 3G to 5G \$800 per station including substation for a total of \$4800.00.
- Dave reported that he ordered 11 SCBA bottles, replacing bottles that will be expiring in the next 3 months (date of expiration). Bottles will be ordered 3-4 months prior to expirations dates keeping in mind of their 6 week lead time.
- Dave received a hose delivery of the hand lines for all companies and all have been picked up by each dept.
- Supply lines are expected in a weeks' time.

Combined Chiefs – Pat asked if the Chiefs had any suggested changed to any of the BOFC SOG's. There were no recommendations at this time.

Radio Committee- Bill Halstead that they had a meeting on the 16th to discuss Radio Programming. 4-6 months once order is placed (end of first week of March) for delivery and Install.

Pat Reilly asked if the Chiefs if they had any suggested changes to the BOFC policies. Chief Halstead said that being that each Fire Company had their own SOG's, and since they were reviewed and changed not long ago they don't have anything they can suggest.

STANDING COMMITTIES

PPE & Policy – Brian reported that they are going through the policies and the three he will discuss tonight are

- **Tax Abatement** updating tax abatement levels –
- The Legislative Counsel voted to update Article VI Abatement for Volunteer Fire as Follows :
A. Exemption Schedule.

Years of Service in Good Standing (preceding date of list certification)	Amount of Exemption
2	\$250
3	\$500
4	\$750
5	\$1200
6	\$1600
7 or more	\$2,000

- **Response Improvement Plan (RIP)-** Updated Revision-It had been discussed previously that the pay for Daytime Driver would increase from \$10.00 to \$12.00 per hours along with clarification of the percentages of required calls (15%). This change will reflect the last 2 pay periods
- **Medical Evaluation- Physicals:** After researching the changes to the physical requirements from Urgent Care to be NFPA compliant, The committee referred to NFPA1582 and also looked into what most towns in the State of Connecticut are following. Urgent Cares requirements entail
 1. Firefighters are able to go to your own doctor and the Town/ Fire Department Physician will need to sign off.
 2. Blood Work and urinalysis will be done and looked at by the physician.
 3. Cancer Screening-
 - a. What Urgent Care will be doing for cancer screening and cost associated with that?
 - b. Females 40 years of age and over shall have a mammography bi-annually, and female 50 years of age and older mammography shall be performed annually.

They will be working on it and will finalize and bring it to the next meeting for vote.

Radio & Hydrants No Report

Truck- No Report

Budget- No Report

Fire Admin- Sub-committee- Brian Sharnick reported the committee has met and had some brief discussion at the Combined Chiefs meeting. They will draft a Job Description to review with Chiefs and Marshals Office to get input and then draft description, job responsibilities and go from there.

NUSAR- None

OLD BUSINESS:

First Due- Chief Don Digioia took leadership position and contacted each departments point person.
Don has reached out to First Due and has resolved some questions, much due to communication issues.

1. Each Department will be able to submit their NFIRS reports.
2. Each Department will be able retrieve their reports to submit their payroll including their training and such.
He explained what much of the issues and remedies are;
Each FD. needs to submit their monthly NFIRS reports to FEMA.

Each FD will receive on the prior monthly authorized runs in a single format bulk submit-able file on the 10th of each month.

Chief Digioia and each FD Point person will have a meeting with First Due (going through the process of completing and approving a run and submitting that file to FEMA).

Once everyone is good on that they will move forward with addressing other issues that need clarifying.

NEW BUSINESS:

Brian Sharnick made a motion to approved policy of the Tax Abatement updates that were instituted by the Legislative Council (LC) Changes include: Years and Value- in line with Exemption Schedule.

Seconded by Jay Nezvesky

Passed unanimously

Brian Sharnick made a motion to approve the updates to the Response Improvement Plan (RIP) to include the change of 10% to 15% of department calls and change \$10.00 to \$12.00 for daytime driver stipend and making retroactive for the last two pay periods.

Tim Whelan seconded

Passed unanimously

Tim Whelan reported that Sandy Hooks Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) broke (the one on 441) they sent it back to Scott and it was broken beyond repair. This is a town owned (TIC). They purchased a new Camera Scott V320 in the Amount of \$3010.30; as it is an important piece of equipment that they needed replaced for 441.

Tim Whelan made a motion to reimburse Sandy Hook for the cost of the replacement TIC in the amount of \$3010.30.

Jay Nezvesky Seconded.

After much discussion

Passed unanimously

Pat Reilly asked for clarification on the request from Newtown Ambulance Association (NAA), on the broadening response of EMS Calls. It was clarified that it was not a directive of the First Selectman; it was a request from NAA.

Ron Bolmer spoke on tax abatement for firefighters that live out of town. He is still looking into getting more information. Southbury and Brookfield both give a taxable check to our of town residents. Ron still has much more information to gather.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting

By Brian Sharnick

Seconded by Tim Whelan

Passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:10

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Schreiner, BOFC Clerk