Minutes

Present: Ed Schierloh, Erica Sullivan, and Michelle Ku
Absent: Charles Gardner, Matt Mihalcik, and 2nd BOF representative

Also Present: First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Finance Director Bob Tait, Chair of the Board of Fire Commissioners Pat Reilly, Fire Commissioner Jay Nezvesky, Fire Chief Ron Bolmer, Fire Chief Chris Ward, Newtown Bike & Trails Committee Members Brad Accettella and Glenn Boyle.

A meeting of the American Rescue Plan Working Group was scheduled for Monday, August 8 at 6:30pm. There not being a quorum, the meeting was not called to order. However, there was discussion among those present.

Pat Reilly shared a letter from the Fire Chiefs (Attachment A) requesting $100,000 for each fire company for equipment and facilities maintenance projects. The Fire Commissioners and Chiefs spoke to specific questions about the requests.

Brushfire rescue skid for UTV – the UTV that was purchased last year is shared across Newtown Fire Companies. The skid would carry a tank that could be used to bring water into harder-to-reach places. Sandy Hook has a UTV set up for emergency rescue (also used across the entire town).

Refurbishment of New Rescue Truck – truck was purchased last year from another town/city.

Fire Station vehicle exhaust removal system $30,000 – National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards direct that fire stations capture vehicle exhaust emissions to prevent exposure to those in the building.

Hydrofusion Strut system used to stabilize a vehicle or structure – the company applied for a grant for this last year but were denied.
Questions from the ARP workgroup:
How would these be paid otherwise?
   Possibility of saving from annual budget over many years.
What portion of the fire stations are owned/maintained by the municipality versus the company?
   Companies own the buildings. Town pays utilities, insurance.
   Fire engines owned by the individual companies and some are owned by the town
   Building maintenance is shared by town and companies
Are grants available?
   Grants are available for some items – FEMA has cycles of availability for different items
   The ARP funds previously awarded to the companies have been allocated for other items
Which items most benefit the community as a whole?
   Safety items are always beneficial. Items such as parking lot paving are out of reach for the fire companies.

Two requests were made in addition to the list provided in the letter (Attachment A): A mechanical system for raising and lowering the flag on the Main St. flagpole was requested for safety reasons (flag was raised/lowered 76 times in 2020). This is within the Burrough’s purview. Access to an Employee Assistance Program for fire fighters was requested. Dan Rosenthal would check on this.

Brad Accettella spoke about the need and benefits of a space for children to learn to ride bicycles. Bicycles were donated to Parks and Recreation. Parents have indicated that it is difficult for kids to ride bicycles in town because of winding and narrow nature of roads in Newtown. Learning to ride is challenging because of steep driveways, narrow roads, and the need to transport bicycles to another part of town for the sake of learning. The plan is that parents could sign out a bicycle at the Community Center. The park would be ideal for ages 3 to 12. Parent supervision would be necessary. The park would provide features that help kids learn safety, rules, and how to navigate different terrains. The request for funds would cover the design and components.

The proposal was in a previous budget, but P&Z had not approved the use of Fairfield Hills. That approval is now in place.

There not being a quorum, working group members left at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Embree Ku

These minutes are subject to approval by the American Rescue Plan Working Group at the next meeting
June 14, 2022

Pat Reilly  
Chairman Newtown Board of Fire Commissioners  
Town of Newtown, 3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470

RE: Additional ARPA Funding Request

Dear Mr. Reilly:

Please forward this to the First selectmen for request of additional ARPA funding for the Newtown Fire Companies. Each fire company is requesting an additional $100,000 to supplement their costs on the attached items outlined on the second page of the document. I have provided a brief description for each item.

Like many of the surrounding towns our volunteer emergency services are the only agencies who did not alter operations, work from home or limit hours during COVID. We did not have the choice but to provide service to the town residences thus putting our own families at risk.

When it comes to disbursement of funds, in many cases, the towns took surveys and overwhelmingly the results came back in favor of using the funds to assist the Fire Departments and their members.

We would invite the opportunity to meet with the first selectmen and answer any questions he may have.

In addition, justify the importance of these items to each department.

Thank you for your support,

Sincerely,

Newtown Fire Chief's
Dodgingtown
Epoxy coating for bay floors $25,000
Brushfire rescue skid for UTV $25,000
Pave front parking lot $25,000

Hawleyville
Replace roof $40,000
Refurbishment of New Rescue Truck $30,000
Fire Station vehicle exhaust removal system $30,000

Hook & Ladder
Hydrofusion Strut system $50,000
Training props, inclined roof structure, extraction pad $50,000

Botsford
Pave parking lot $100,000

Sandy Hook
Equipment for new Quint 440 $27,750
Main Station painting/interior/exterior/Trim repair $28,000
Replace floor in front office area $12,000

Station 2
Epoxy Bay floor $25,000

Fire Marshall Office
Replace vehicle $70,000
Rescue Support Systems

HydraFusion Struts
The Paratech HydraFusion Struts offer dual users the ability to lift up to 10 U.S. tons with a safety factor of 2:1 and to stabilize up to 20,000 lbs. with a safety factor of 4:1. The innovative, built-in Dual Shaft End Adapter (patent pending) allows users to safely use Paratech LongShore, LockStroke or Acme Thread Struts and Extensions in conjunction with the incredible lifting ability of the HydraFusion Strut.

HydraFusion Strut Kits
All lift 10 tons (8.0 t) with a 2:1 safety factor. All shore 20,000 lbs. (9.0 t) with a 4:1 safety factor

HydraFusion Strut 04 Kit
Net Weight: 42.2 lb 19.2 kg
Part No. 22-79HA04K

HydraFusion Strut 16 Kit
Net Weight: 60.7 lb 27.6 kg
Part No. 22-79HA16K

HydraFusion Strut 10 Kit
Net Weight: 81.8 lb 37.0 kg
Part No. 22-79HA10K

HydraFusion Pump With Gauge
With Gauge and Hose Only
Net Weight: 23.2 lb 10.6 kg
Part No. 22-790020G

HydraFusion Hose Extension
Net Weight: 3.2 lb 1.5 kg
Part No. 22-790030X

HydraFusion Struts Accessories

Strut Converter
Use a Strut Converter to attach a base to the top end of a HydraFusion Strut
Net Weight: 2.7 lb 1.3 kg
Part No. 22-796038

HydraFusion Longshore Screw Adapter
Net Weight: 6.1 lb 2.7 kg
Part No. 22-790018

HydraFusion Acme Thread Screw Adapter
Net Weight: 6.8 lb 3.1 kg
Part No. 22-790067

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Newtown Hook & Ladder (F)
12 Church Hill Rd
Newtown, CT 06470-2159
US

Customer No
N281774
Loc
CT
PPD/COL
OUR TRUCK
Ship via
OUR TRUCK
Ship date
A.S.A.P.

Qty Ordered
1.00
1.00
Item No
EA
EA

**EQUIP MISC
Paratech Heavy Vehicle Extrication Kits, 822-884816K

1.00
54,350.00
54,350.00

1.00
575.00
575.00

Quote

Quote No
35872
Purchased Order No

Quote Date
12/9/2020

Shipping

Ship to
Newtown Hook & Ladder
9 Silver City Rd
Attn: AC Jason Rivera
Newtown, CT 06470-2159
US
Ship date
107
Shipper
John Polk
Phone: 860-625-6370
email: jpolkin@shipmans.com

Unit price
Disc
Extended price

54,350.00
575.00

54,925.00

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
TERMS: NET 30 DAYS.
QUOTE VALID FOR 30 DAYS.
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CORRECT CLERICAL ERRORS AT ANY TIME.
THE QUOTE TOTAL MAY NOT REFLECT MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES, FREIGHT OR SALES TAX

Quote Total
54,925.00

Freight charge is calculated at time of quote and is subject to change.