



# FIRE COMMISSION

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street  
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 794-8501

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 - 7:00 p.m. – Meeting Rm A

Video/ Teleconference video link: <https://zoom.us/j/7360902790>

**Present:** Rich Straiton, Doug Cuny, Fred Ingram and Tony Rubino. Also in attendance were Chief McCollam and Chief Baker and Tom Galliford. First Selectman Carter attended from 7:00pm – 7:35pm.

Vice-chair, Fred Ingram called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Public Comment:** None

**Correspondence:** None

### **Election of Officers:**

Motion made by Doug Cuny, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to nominate Fred Ingram as chair and Tony Rubino as vice-chair. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Rich Straiton, and seconded by Tony Rubino, to nominate Doug Cuny as secretary. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Chair Fred Ingram ran the remainder of the meeting.

### **Consideration of approval of regular meeting minutes September 13, 2023:**

Richard Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Fred Ingram to approve the minutes of September 13, 2023 as written. Vote: Rich Straiton and Fred Ingram in favor, Tony Rubino and Doug Cuny abstained. Motion carries.

### **Consideration of approval of 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule:**

Motion made by Doug Cuny, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to accept the 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule as proposed. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

### **Consideration of special meeting date for SHFD budget presentation:**

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Tony Rubino, to schedule a special meeting on 1/18/2024 at 7:00pm in Meeting Room A to discuss SHFD budget. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

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**Consideration of a special meeting date for BFD budget presentation:**

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to schedule a special meeting on 1/24/2024 at 7:00pm in Meeting Room A to discuss the BFD budget. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

**Chiefs Reports:**

Chief Baker, SHFD, reported on outstanding projects:

- both 911 call boxes on the outside of the building are not working properly
- speaker not working in the engine bay
- new phone system won't work without an amplifier so it will need to be purchased
- firetrucks from SHFD and engine from Bethel went to Windsor to be flushed of foam
- in the process of purchasing a message board

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, to accept Chief Baker's report as presented. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Chief McCollam's report:

- CEN network and outside cameras are fully operational now
- Squad was repaired and insurance paperwork filed with HR Director
- Will need to file a claim for 208 Greenwood Ave. for 2 lengths of 5" hose
- Allotment of ARPA funds have been mostly used

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to accept Chief McCollam's report as presented. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

**Discussion on Paratech struts for Stony Hill Fire Department:**

The Paratech struts are used in a situation that requires stabilization of a vehicle. This item was in the capital budget for SHFD.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, to approve and forward to the Board of Selectmen for approval, purchase of the Paratech struts in the amount of \$11,528.20 from CNR for SHFD. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

First Selectman Carter stated that the charter says the Fire Commission can have two ex-officio members to serve in an advisory capacity and have all the rights of being a member except they are non-voting members. One member of each department can be the ex-officio member. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Tony Rubino, to add to the agenda discussion of appointing an ex-officio member from each department to the Fire Commission. Vote in favor: Fred Ingram, Doug Cuny, and Tony Rubino. Vote against: Rich Straiton. Motion carries. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, to come to the next Fire Commission meeting with a name to submit as an ex-officio member. Vote in favor: Fred Ingram, Doug Cuny, and Tony Rubino. Vote against: Rich Straiton. Motion carries.

**Review of Fire Study:**

Recommendations and Improvement Goals noted in the study were discussed. Suggestion made by a commissioner to put money aside each year for truck replacement. The results of the study recommended to develop and fund an appropriate apparatus purchasing and replacement plan. Consensus of the commission that the top priority is to acquire two ladder trucks, one for each department. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Tony Rubino, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to accept the fire study as presented. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

**Consideration of recommendation to fill vacancy on commission:**

Motion made by Fred Ingram , and seconded by Doug Cuny, to recommend to the Board of Selectmen, Mark White and Paul Perroti, as possible candidates to fill the vacancy on the Fire Commission. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Rich Straiton, and seconded by Fred Ingram, to add to the agenda a discussion of PFAS in turnout gear. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries. Discussion ensued. Tom Galliford stated that's why there are two sets of turnout gear for each firefighter.

Rich Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Fred Ingram to adjourn the meeting at 8:06pm. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Churchill

Recording Secretary