

**TOWN OF BOZRAH**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**BOZRAH TOWN HALL**  
January 18, 2022

**Item 1:** First Selectman Glenn Pianka called a Regular Meeting of the Bozrah Board of Selectmen (BOS) to order at the Bozrah Town Hall on January 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** First Selectman Glenn Pianka, Second Selectman Bill Ballinger and Selectman Jeremy Tarasevich

2 Members of the Public

**Item 2:** Public Comments

No public comment.

**Item 3:** Approval of Minutes -Regular Meeting December 21, 2021

**MOTION:** B. Ballinger made a motion to approve the minutes for the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting held December 21, 2021. J. Tarasevich seconded the motion.  
Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

**Item 4:** Monthly Reports

- a. Fire Marshal - Attachment 1
- b. Food Bank - Attachment 2
- c. Senior Services Coordinator
- d. State Police - Attachment 3

**Item 5:** Town Policies - Follow Up from BOS meeting 12/21/21

- a. Insurance - Non-Participation - Draft Review

Attachment 4

The Board clarified how the benefits compensation are annually reported. G. Pianka noted he will transfer this information to a formal form.

**MOTION 2:** J. Tarasevich made a motion to move forward with the Town Employee Policy: Non-Insurance Coverage. G. Pianka seconded the motion.  
Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

b. Scholarship Awards - Draft Review

Attachment 5

**MOTION 3:** B. Ballinger made a motion to move forward with the Town Budget Policy: Awards and Scholarships. J. Tarasevich seconded the motion.  
Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

**Item 6:** Emergency Management Director - Equipment Acquisition Proposal  
(Email dated 01/01/22 from Fire Marshal Main)

Attachment 6

Tom Main presented the Board with the Equipment Acquisition Proposal for higher band radios. T. Main noted the estimated project cost is \$50,000.

G. Pianka noted the Board will put the higher band radio project on the next list of American Rescue Plan projects. The fire department will continue with gathering information and prices for the project.

**Item 7:** Transfer Station Hours - Discussion/Action on citizen proposal for revising hours/dates for operation

Attachment 7

The Board chose to continue the seasonal Transfer Station hours.

**Item 8:** Such Other Business as the Board May Vote to Hear

**MOTION 4:** B. Ballinger made a motion to add Item 8a: First Selectman Update to the agenda. J. Tarasevich seconded the motion.

**Item 8a:** First Selectman Update

a. Enforcement Officer

G. Pianka verbally committed to SCCOG hiring an enforcement officer for the Planning and Zoning commission.

b. DPW Garage

G. Pianka noted leaking at the DPW Garage. G. Pianka discussed possible repairs and updates to the DPW Garage to include a wash bay.

c. UST at School

G. Pianka noted Jim Ericson is firming prices for the storage tank installation.

d. Soccer Field

e. Maples Farm Park Pavillion

G. Pianka is creating a material list to present at the Maples Farm Park commission. He noted he will not include railings so they can be added at a later date if needed.

f. Rec-Field Playscape

G. Pianka noted they need to add protection to the playscape.

**Item 9: Public Comment**

Bill Ballinger commented on a longtime DPW employee who has retired, he noted the town should recognize his service to the town.

**Item 10: Adjourn**

**MOTION 5:** G. Pianka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. J. Tarasevich seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous -**MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted for the Board,

Heather Provost  
Recording Secretary



**OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL  
TOWN OF BOZRAH  
TOWN HALL  
1 RIVER ROAD  
BOZRAH, CT. 06334  
Telephone: (860) 889-2689 • Fax: (860) 887-5449**

01/17/2022

Glenn Pianka, First Selectman  
Town of Bozrah  
1 River Rd  
Bozrah CT 06334

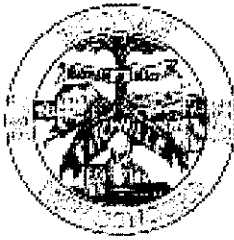
Glenn,

The following are activities conducted by the Fire Marshal's Office between 11/10/2021 thru 12/09/2021:

- Review of communications from the State of Connecticut DEMHS
- Data entry into fire department data base
- First Responder FAA training class
- Traffic Incident/Traffic control Bozrah Farmers Holiday Market
- Spoke with Dave Mederois/ Mid city Steel on liquid oxygen storage tank installation at Fitchville Rd location
- Met with Kevin Horan/ Elmbrook Village on exiting plan modification
- Connecticut Fire Academy Fire Officer IV, Branford 2-8 hour classes

Submitted,

Thomas E Main Jr., Fire Marshal  
Town of Bozrah



**OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL  
TOWN OF BOZRAH  
TOWN HALL  
1 RIVER ROAD  
BOZRAH, CT. 06334  
Telephone: (860) 889-2689 • Fax: (860) 887-5449**

01/17/2022

Glenn Pianka, First Selectman  
Town of Bozrah  
1 River Rd  
Bozrah CT 06334

Glenn,

The following are activities conducted by the Fire Marshal's Office between 12/10/2021 thru 01/09/2022:

- Review of communications from the State of Connecticut DEMHS
- Data entry into fire department data base
- Coordinate with CT DEMHS on N 95 mask and at-home Covid test kit acquisition and delivery
- Except at-home Covid test kit delivery on 12/31/21 at 2200 hours
- Connecticut Fire Academy Fire Officer IV, Branford 1-8 hour class
- Inspection at Hillandale Farms on exiting plan to re-open existing egg processing room
- Coordinate delivery of at-home Covid testing kits to Elmbrook Village and The Fitchville Home
- Review Field Memorial School Emergency Plan/ update Town of Bozrah LEOP

Annual Fire Safety Inspections

- United Parcel Service
- MD Auto
- Main's Country Store

Submitted,

Thomas E Main Jr., Fire Marshal  
Town of Bozrah

## **Bozrah Food Pantry December 2021 Monthly Report**

The Bozrah Food Pantry (BFP) continues to be well stocked and the schedule of participants submitting requests by Wednesdays and pickups on Thursdays 3:00 - 6:00 PM is working well. Christmas food baskets were given out to fourteen Bozrah families with enough extra food to get them through the holidays. Food basket contents were as follows: Chicken, gravy, broth, cranberry sauce, stuffing, crescent rolls, fresh eggs, potatoes, assorted canned vegetables, soups, rice, pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, coffee, cake mix, pumpkin pie mix, and homemade cookies. Special thanks go out to volunteer (Wally Smolen) helping to prepare and distribute the food baskets. A total of 89 weekly and holiday food basket requests were completed in 2021.

### **Food Requests:**

The BFP had four weekly food requests from families for pickups prepared and given out. Each pickup is about one week's worth of food for each person. (4 adults 0 children)

### **Donations:**

M&M Transport, Molly Lathrop, Janet Cosenza, Dorothy Lathrop, Ev Brown, Mike Fowler, and several anonymous Bozrah residents dropped food off at the Town Hall.

### **BFP Financials:**

#### **Purchases with debit card:**

- \$500 check from M&M Transport given to Diana Santo
- \$161.98 (chickens from Shoprite)

#### **Purchases with gift cards:**

- Shoprite gift card beginning balance \$192.95
- No purchases
- Ending balance \$192.95
  
- Stop& Shop gift card beginning balance \$101.77
- \$50 gift card from Ev Brown
- \$25 gift card from Dorothy Lathrop
- \$25 gift card from Janet Cosenza
- \$41.41 (bread, rolls and restock pantry)
- Ending balance \$160.36

Sincerely,

Tom Ververis (BFP Coordinator)

Linda Blinn-Smolen (BFP Coordinator)

(Jan 6 2022)



# State of Connecticut



## Connecticut State Police Troop K - Colchester

Commanding Officer  
Lieutenant Erik Trotter #042

Executive Officer  
Master Sergeant Eric Peck #085

Date: 01/04/2022

Mr. Glenn Pianka  
Bozrah First Selectman  
1 River Road  
Bozrah, CT 06334

Dear Mr. Pianka,

This correspondence is an effort to keep you apprised of the monthly police services occurring within the Town of Bozrah.

During the month of December 2021 the Troop K Troopers responded to 104 Calls for Service in the Town of Bozrah. Of these Calls for Service the most notable are:

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Accidents:                      | 5  |
| Burglaries:                     | 0  |
| Larcenies:                      | 2  |
| Other Criminal:                 | 3  |
| Other Non-Criminal:             | 3  |
| Non Reportable Matters:         | 79 |
| Other Noteworthy Events (List): |    |
| N/A.                            |    |

In addition to the above investigations Troopers conducted the following motor vehicle enforcement:

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| On-Sight DWI:      | 2 |
| Traffic Citations: | 4 |
| Written Warnings:  | 4 |

Sincerely,

***Lt. Erik Trotter #042***

Lieutenant Erik Trotter #042  
Commanding Officer  
Troop "K" Colchester, CT

15A Old Hartford Road  
Colchester, Connecticut 06415  
Phone (860) 465-5400  
FAX (860) 465-5450



## **TOWN EMPLOYEE POLICY: NON-INSURANCE COVERAGE**

The Town of Bozrah offers comprehensive medical/health, dental and vision insurance coverage for its' employees. The Town of Bozrah offers access to this benefit upon employment. The rate of contribution by the employee is 10% of the actual cost of the policy coverage selected.

Occasionally that employee has access to such coverage through other domestic partnerships. Should the employee opt-out of this benefit they are entitled to receive what would have been their 10% contribution as compensation. This payment will be calculated and paid at the end of each fiscal year (June 30<sup>th</sup>) unless that employee terminates employment, in which case the amount earned will be pro-rated.

A declaration of which coverage: Employee, Employee Plus Dependent or Employee Plus Family must be declared with the Accounting Administrator. Earned compensation for this benefit will be reported annually to IRS via W-2 or 1099 as recommended by Standardized Accounting Practice

## **TOWN BUDGET POLICY: AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Town of Bozrah Fiscal Year budgets provide operating funding to promote the various missions of the Boards and Commissions. Recent question as to the appropriateness of budgeted funding usage for Awards and Scholarships has prompted clarification of authorized expenditure, as follows:

- 1) For continuing education of Board and Commission members
- 2) For plaques, trophies and paper certificates for Board and Commission members, and in the case of the Recreation Commission: for duly registered participants of any sport or activity sanctioned by the Recreation Commission
- 3) In no case will monetary (cash, check or otherwise) awards or recognition be issued from the use of Town of Bozrah Fiscal Year budgetary appropriations.
- 4) The various Boards and Commissions are not prohibited from sourcing Award or Scholarship funding. The Board of Selectmen are specifically prohibited from actively seeking contribution to any such fund-raising effort. Funds raised for the purpose of Awards and/or Scholarships will be properly recorded in the minutes of the involved Board or Commission and deposited into the Student Activity Fund at Fields Memorial School, with disbursements similarly recorded, per auditing requirement.

## Bozrah First Selectman, Glenn Pianka

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**From:** THOMAS MAIN <temainjr@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 6, 2022 12:04 PM  
**To:** Bozrah First Selectman, Glenn Pianka; Bill Ballinger; Tarasevich, Jeremy  
**Cc:** Ryan Sholes  
**Subject:** ARF

Gentlemen,

The radio frequency that many area fire departments mainly operate on, LOW BAND, is being phased out and it is becoming very hard to find equipment on this band if existing equipment fails (many manufacturers has stopped producing low band equipment). There has been a push to move emergency services to the 800Mhz band, which is a statewide system that has been built out by the State of Connecticut. Because it can become costly to outfit complete departments with this equipment as well as area dispatch centers this has been a slow transition. As of late though, due to the availability of American Rescue Funding, many area town and our mutual aid partners are utilizing these fund to transition to the 800Mhz band.

As you may have seen in a recent newspaper articles, Norwich is transitioning their system to the 800Mhz band, which will include all six fire departments. Willimantic Dispatch Center is receiving funds which will transition the five departments they dispatch which includes Franklin and Lebanon is also working on a plan for the switch as well. Our dispatch center is in the process of adding the the ability to transmit and receive on this frequency and there are about 1/2 a dozen departments dispatched through QV actively working on plans to transition that I am aware of and there may be more.

After discussing this with Chief Sholes, we are in agreement that this would be a proactive project to maintain interoperability with our surrounding mutual aid departments. Eventually, we will be forced to upgrade our equipment and as with anything, the longer it is prolonged the more costly it will become. I am asking for your consideration, if funding is available, that monies in the second allocation of ARF funding be utilized for this upgrade. I have contacted our radio vendor, and because this is a statewide system, we need to begin the process with the State of Connecticut to gain permission to access this system. Once granted, the vendor can produce a formal quote which they currently cannot do with out state permission. Chief Sholes also stated that he would withdraw his request for turnout gear funding to put it towards this project if approved. A **preliminary cost estimate** I was able to obtain from our radio vendor would put this project in the area of **\$50,000.00**. If you think this is a feasible project I will continue to get more hard numbers once approved by the state as this is lengthy approval process.

Respectively Submitted,

Thomas E. Main Jr.  
Fire Marshal/ EMD  
Town of Bozrah  
1 River Rd.  
Bozrah CT., 06334  
(860)625-0658 cell

BULLETIN ARTICLE  
12/30/21

# The Bulletin

## LOCAL

# No more 'Band-Aids' and 'bubblegum.' Norwich dispatch radios to see much-needed upgrades.



**Trevor Ballantyne**

The Bulletin

Published 4:33 a.m. ET Dec. 30, 2021 | Updated 9:54 a.m. ET Dec. 30, 2021

*Editor's note: East Great Plains Fire Chief Keith Milton was incorrectly identified in an earlier version of this story, which has since been updated.*

With \$3.4 million in federal funding provided through the American Rescue Plan, Norwich City Council gave the green light for a series of substantial upgrades to the city's antiquated emergency dispatch system.

"We have known for a decade, maybe longer, that our dispatch center was in serious need of an upgrade," said the council's president pro-tempore, Joseph DeLucia.

Some improvement came in 2018 when Norwich voters approved a ballot question to upgrade radio systems used by the police department.

Completed earlier this year, the work almost entirely eliminated so-called "dead areas" in the city where officers responding to a call could not communicate clearly with dispatchers.

Now, with the benefit of the federal funding, council members approved upgrades to replace antiquated equipment and improve communications for the city's six fire departments.

"The main problem is they are operating on two separate bands, so it makes it difficult for the individual departments to talk to each other – they are carrying multiple radios and switch back and forth to frequencies, and at fires that is a danger," DeLucia explained.

**More:** Connecticut will soon see billions of federal dollars. How will that help Norwich?

As it stands now, volunteer departments in Norwich operate on a "low band" frequency while the Norwich Fire Department uses "high band" radios, requiring firefighters to monitor

communications on two separate radios in order to communicate with each other.

A third, Ultra High Frequency, UHF, radio is used to communicate with departments in other towns when responding to mutual aid calls, explained Taftville Fire Chief Timothy Jencks.

“What we did is we actually put a specific low band, high band, and UHF radio – three radio heads, one for each different frequency in the cab of the truck so when you are responding you are able to know what is going on,” Jencks said.

**More:** The new year brings new COVID-19 mandates for Norwich city employees. Here's what we know.

Beyond having to juggle multiple radios when communicating between departments, the outdated low band radio technology creates other problems.

“I joke around about it, it's got Band-Aids on top of Band-Aids, unfortunately,” said East Great Plains Fire Chief Keith Milton of the aging radio infrastructure. “The worst part is it's getting tougher and tougher to find parts for repairs for equipment that breaks down or even purchasing new stuff because companies are just getting away from it.”

The poor technology combined with the city's topography also results in parts of the city where communications between volunteer fire departments and the city's dispatch center, located at the Norwich police station, are “very, very poor,” Milton added.

**More:** Will home prices keep climbing in 2022 or stabilize? Conn. real estate agents weigh in.

“I will be talking on my portable radio talking to the dispatcher and talking to one of my trucks that is responding to give them some information and they might not hear anything that I am saying. And even the dispatch will say ‘hey can you repeat that, you are very broken up,’” he said.

DeLucia underscored the need to address the technology used by the fire departments.

“You just cannot have communications fail when you are asking people to crawl into a building to fight a fire and rescue people,” he said. “Volunteered or paid, they are running into danger when other people are running away – they need to have radios that work, it's that simple,” the city council member said.

**More:** American Legion's howitzer moved from Norwich to Sprague

Another key component of the planned upgrade will see the installation of computerized dispatch consoles at the Norwich Police Department, replacing ones currently used that DeLucia described as “cumbersome” and “held together with Band-Aids and baling wire and bubble gum.”

Dispatchers working at the police station are responsible for calls for police, fire, and emergency medical services and sometimes must use different computers to complete basic tasks.

**More:** Plainfield police again form special unit to solve major cases, relieving patrol officers

“Right now, if I say give me my second alarm for a street, [the dispatchers] have to go to another computer to look up a PDF file to find out what they are supposed to send,” Jencks said. “Our dispatch program is just antiquated, so this will modernize and streamline it so that everything will be at their fingertips.”

## **Staffing levels also need to be addressed**

The new technology for the dispatch center is welcome, Jencks said, but to get the most out of the upgrades will also require city leaders to address inadequate staffing levels.

“We have had fires where there has been one dispatcher on,” the Taftville Chief noted.

**More:** Eastern Connecticut murder cases expected to see trial dates in 2022

DeLucia echoed the concern, explaining the problem is largely a result, “of budgetary constraints.”

“If we are using [American Rescue Plan] money to fix part one -- the [low band frequency] and the physical assets,” he said. “We are going to have to find a way in our budget process to staff it adequately so that we have all this equipment and get the people trained to run it,” he said.

## Transfer Station Summer Hours Proposal

August 30, 2021

Hi Glenn:

I wanted to propose a change to the summer hours to make keeping the web site up to date easier.

As it stands today one must have a calendar in hand to determine when the 15<sup>th</sup> of June and then use the Wednesday of that week and the same for the 15<sup>th</sup> of September.

I believe a less complicated way would be to begin the summer hours on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in June and end the summer hours after the second Wednesday in September. This could be stated on the web page once without having to do an annual update.

I asked Dave and he said it would not matter to him. Let me know what the BOS thinks about this.

Thanks

Currently it looks like this:

WINTER HOURS BEGIN  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

SUMMER HOURS BEGIN  
JUNE 16, 2021

I Propose this:

WINTER HOURS BEGIN  
AFTER SECOND  
WEDNESDAY

SUMMER HOURS BEGIN  
ON SECOND  
WEDNESDAY



Bruce Neild <bruce.condoman.us@gmail.com>

**Re: Transfer Station Summer Hours Proposal**

1 message

**Bruce Neild** <bruce.condoman.us@gmail.com>  
To: Glenn Pianka <FirstSelectman@bozrahct.org>

Tue, Aug 31, 2021 at 1:10 PM

I would be concerned that folks would not think it is only the Wednesday hours that change. As long as we pick a Wednesday to start & stop the summer hours it would be more likely to be remembered. That's what I was going for.

What do you think?

On Tue, Aug 31, 2021 at 9:49 AM Glenn Pianka <FirstSelectman@bozrahct.org> wrote:

Bruce,

Interesting. I never perceived that as an issue. Do you think that June 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> might make it any easier??

**From:** Bruce Neild [mailto:bruce.condoman.us@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 30, 2021 3:57 PM  
**To:** Glenn Pianka <FirstSelectman@bozrahct.org>  
**Subject:** Transfer Station Summer Hours Proposal

See attached PDF file.

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Sent from my Win 10 desktop

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Sent from my Win 10 desktop