

**From:** Russell Maitland <[rmaitland@chappaquafd.org](mailto:rmaitland@chappaquafd.org)>

**Date:** October 22, 2020 at 8:28:18 AM EDT

**To:** Ivy Pool <[ipool@mynewcastle.org](mailto:ipool@mynewcastle.org)>

**Cc:** Paul Eiden <[pceiden@gmail.com](mailto:pceiden@gmail.com)>, Gregory Bologna <[gbologna@chappaquafd.org](mailto:gbologna@chappaquafd.org)>

**Subject:** Chappaqua FD

**CHAPPAQUA FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**P.O. BOX 454, CHAPPAQUA, NEW YORK 10514**

*Russell Maitland, Chief*  
*Paul Eiden, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief*  
*Greg Bologna, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief*



*J.I.D. Bristol Engine Co.*  
*Chappaqua Fire Patrol Co.*  
*Chappaqua Independent Fire Co*

October 22, 2020

Ivy Pool  
Supervisor  
Town of New Castle  
200 South Greeley Avenue  
Chappaqua, NY 10514

Dear Ivy,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Form-Based Code last night. We will get you our written comments shortly.

I did want to address some of the issues we have been experiencing with the town, with the sole purpose of better communication and developing a better working relationship.

We did attempt to schedule a meeting with the Town Board to discuss these issues, which was refused by you because you were not comfortable meeting with the Chiefs without the Board of Fire Commissioners present. As we have discussed, there is a clear delineation between the Fire Department and the Fire District and its governing board. The Fire Department handles all operational matters in the delivery of the emergency services we provide and are a separate entity from the Fire District. The fire commissioners do not represent the operational concerns, views, and opinions of the Fire Department. I understand that there may be some disagreement with some commissioners however their duties are spelled out in NYS Town Law.

In my comments last night I discussed some of the factors that most likely will influence which direction our staffing options can go in the future. Call volume and type being two significant data points. The third is the willingness of the volunteers to respond. The latter is what we have the most control over however it is the most difficult to effect change. Current training standards and OSHA/PESH requirements are becoming more stringent, requiring volunteers to put in more hours than ever before beyond their time responding to emergencies. Our membership has brought up on numerous occasions their perception that our department does not get the support from town government (there is a laundry list) that they believe is due and in the best interest of public safety. It is incumbent on me and my staff to do everything within our sphere of influence to create an environment where our membership is well trained and prepared to do their job but additionally, feel compelled to continue to volunteer their time. Our volunteer workforce is the best labor deal that the town has. Let's keep it that way!

***Firehouse (914) 238-4205***

***Chief's Office (914) 238-0819***

On a separate note, we would like to meet with the Town Board to discuss our needs analysis for our potential addition to our current firehouse so that you have firsthand information as it will have an impact on the overall community. Let me know if we can get something scheduled (I know you are swamped with FBC stuff).

Again thanks for your willingness to listen and ensure that we develop a collaborative effort for the betterment of our community.

Cordially,

*Russell Maitland*

Russell Maitland  
Chief of Department