Enfield Fire District No. 1

Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

January 6th, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Patrick Droney.

Attendees for the Board:

Paul Benis Vincent Grady

Gary Castle Donald Hayward

Sean McGuire Patrick Droney

William Moran Scott Prentiss

Maureen Brennan

Also, in attendance was Chief Edward Richards and Deputy Chief William Higgins.

**Public Comment:**

Debbie Chapin states that she would like to make two corrections to the previous month’s minutes. These corrections were regarding a statement about John Alexander being interested in the Strategic Planning Committee and that comment was made by Pat Droney not Debbie Chapin and about following the by-laws with regard to public comment later in the meeting after the time for comments has passes. Both these corrections have been made to the December 2021 minutes.

Patrick Droney asked for clarification about public and asked if Ms. Chapin is opposed to Commissioners asking a question of the public during the meeting and Ms. Chapin advised that is okay and rather it is when the public speaks out of order.

Vice President Donald Hayward asks if Becky Ellis’ email should be read aloud and it is agreed it should. President Droney read aloud an email from Becky Ellis regarding the Station Two Renovation. She asks how much money has been spent already, what the total budget is, what the rationale for doing this is, where the funding comes from, have any grants been pursued. Her concern is that it was difficult to get approval of two trucks and that other expansion projects in town have recently failed. She also inquiries about the public space plans including any fees that may be charged for use. A response will be drafted.

Maureen Brennan read aloud the minutes from the December 9th, 2021 Commission meeting. Sean McGuire mentioned a change regarding the accountant discussion in that other items were discussed and the minutes were updated to reflect that. Motion by Vincent Grady and second by Paul Benis to accept the minutes as amended and the motion passes with one abstention by Maureen Brennan

Chief’s Report was reviewed and discussed. Chief states fire at 27 Litchfield Drive started in carport and was a good stop. Gary Castle discusses cause and states it seems to be ashes and was accidental. Chief emphasized importance of proper handling of hot ashes. Vice President Donald Hayward inquired about number of members as compared to Training Report and Chief will look into it. Motion by Vinny Grady and second by Gary Castle to approve as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed and discussed. Vice President Donald Hayward asked when we would get a final report from states it is received accountants and Chief Motion by Scott Prentiss and second by Paul Benis to approve report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

No Fire Marshal Report

The Training Officer’s Report was reviewed and discussed. Deputy Chief William Higgins advised that the Chief has the correct number of members at 38 which is correct and will be corrected on his report. We have received two applications and they are in progress. Due to COVID, in December training went back to online. COVID protocols are in place, no use of hall, no people in stations, and limiting congregating after calls, etc. He states that 2021 was very successful year of training. Vincent Grady inquired about booster shots for COVID. Deputy Chief Higgins states it is difficult according to the provider due to different brands and that COVID testing will not be available at this time either. Scott Prentiss inquired about the number of trained operators for the boat and the Deputy Chief states there are 16. Motion by Vincent Grady and second by Scott Prentiss to approve report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

**Committee Reports –**

Station Two – no update

**Old Business** –

Strategic Planning committee update by Scott Prentiss. Committee is including as much input from public as possible. Member’s list reviewed. SWOT analysis submitted by members and replies compiled. Fleet replacement cycle, station renovations, and financials are some common topics thus far. William Moran inquired about the make-up of the committee being inclusive of the relevant stakeholders and Scott Prentiss advises there is and the process is inclusive. President Patrick Droney states that for balance he is open to suggestions for another local politician and perhaps a Republican since there is a Democrat and while this is not at all political in nature, this would provide varying perspectives. Maureen Brennan states that the document and material therein is very good and job well done on the progress.

**New Business**

Gary Castle mentioned that during the aforementioned fire, a neighbor and her boyfriend helped a woman out of a window during the fire. Commissioner Castle discussed this with the Chief and also found there was another fire behind Enfield High School whereas a citizen was helpful. He recommended that we explore having a citizen’s recognition program. Scott Prentiss recommended doing this during the Annual District meeting in May. Vincent Grady agrees with the concept as well. President Droney also believe it is a good idea.

John Santanella would like all commissioners in all districts to meet to review the MOU.

Motion to adjourn at 8:25pm by Vincent Grady and second by Maureen Brennan. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Brennan

Clerk/Treasurer