Enfield Fire District No. 1

Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

February 10th, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by President Patrick Droney.

Attendees for the Board:

Paul Benis Vincent Grady

Gary Castle Donald Hayward

Patrick Droney Scott Prentiss

William Moran

Maureen Brennan

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

**Public Comment:**

None

Maureen Brennan read aloud the minutes from the January 6th, 2022 Commission meeting. Commissioner Gary Castle mentions that he wants to emphasize that in his comments regarding the fire at 27 Litchfield Drive that the cause was not definitively known, only suspected. This is so noted. Motion by Vincent Grady and second by William Moran to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed and discussed. Motion by Vincent Grady and second by Gary Castle to approve report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Chief’s Report was reviewed and discussed. It is noted that calls are up significantly compared to last year for January. Chief Edward Richards advises that there was an incident recently whereas an automated alarm resulted in a call and the homeowner was out of town. There was no way to access the home so after exterior inspection they decided it was safe not to force entry. Chief did review this with homeowner and recommended that she have a plan for this in the future such as a spare key hidden or with a person. Chief Edward Richards also advised that the arial is deemed to be out of service by Fleet Masters due to extensive rust. It is now able to be used as a pumper only but in a life-or-death scenario would be used for arial rescue if needed. Motion by Vinny Grady and second by Maureen Brennan to approve as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Fire Marshal’s Report was reviewed and discussed. New businesses in the district are reviewed and it is noted that JFK School construction is progressing. Motion by Paul Benis and second by Maureen Brennan to approve as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Training Officer’s Report was reviewed and discussed. Deputy Chief William Higgins advised that he has recently conducted an exit review and findings show that the primary reasons for personnel to leave are major life changes and relocation. The Deputy Chief also states that the 1 million dollar AFG Grant has been submitted. There are two new cadets going through the onboarding process. The truck committee will move quickly as there are many delays due to the supply chain issues and quicker action by the committee can help offset this. Deputy Chief Higgins reviewed the Safer Grant (amount of $1,072,000) that has been submitted but advised that there is no obligation to accept if awarded. Grant will cover requested personnel and subsequent benefits for 3 years. Scott Prentiss states that he was of the understanding that we had tonight’s meeting to review it before submitting for the Safer Grant as he had concerns/questions. The Deputy advised that it was submitted but no commitment to go forward if we should decide not to. He also advised that Lt. Mucci assisted with the grant process. Motion by Vincent Grady and second by Gary Castle to approve report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

**Committee Reports**

Station Two – no update

Strategic Planning committee update - Scott Prentiss states that the Committee process is open and transparent. They are about one-third of the way done. He feels that applying for the Safer Grant was premature as he believes this committee could address staffing.

New Apparatus – They are starting to look around, not many places have stock trucks. Chief states they will likely have to finance 600K of the total for the truck. Vice President Donald Howard states he heard many stock models have roll-up doors and questioned if this is what we want. Chief states that these types of doors are not as difficult as they were in the past and he would be okay with them. Scott Prentiss states that he went by E-1 factory but was unable to get inside and that he was able to ask some questions. He states that they said turnaround time is 1-1 ½ years.

**Old Business**

Vice President Donald Hayward read aloud the reply to Becky Ellis’ email inquiry regarding the station two renovation. He advised: thus far, we have spent $28,248; the plans include items such as a large function room, ADA compliant bathrooms, male/female bunks; the reason for the renovation is because it has been over 40 years and it can use it; that the money is coming from the budget and will not add to the tax payers’ fees; that he has not applied for grants but look into what is available. Vincent Grady asks if reply sent yet and VP Donald Hayward advise not yet but he will now.

**New Business:**

William Moran inquired about the Bylaw Committee and President Droney advised they have not met but that he will set something up.

There is discussion of replacing the Fire Marshal vehicle and there is a motion made by Vincent Grady and second by VP Donald Hayward to allocate up to $55,000 in the budget for the Fire Marshal Vehicle. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Motion to enter into executive session at 8:32pm by Vincent Grady and second by William Moran. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Out of executive session at 9:29pm with no votes taken.

Motion by Maureen Brennan and second by William Moran to accept the advice of Attorney Grello to accept the suggested permanency rating with regard to the H&H issue at the upcoming Workers Compensation Commission Meeting. Motion passes with one nay, Vincent Grady.

Motion to adjourn at 9:31 by Vincent Grady and second Paul Benis. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Brennan

Clerk/Treasurer