Enfield Fire District No. 1

Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

March 10th, 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

Patrick Droney Scott Prentiss

William Moran Sean McGuire

Maureen Brennan

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

President Patrick Droney announced that this morning we found out that the Special District Meeting we had yesterday where the new apparatus was approved was not in compliance with our by-laws which required all day voting between 6am and 8pm. President Droney apologized for the inconvenience. He advised that it was reviewed by the attorney but somehow got by. Chief Edward Richards also apologized.

**Public Comment:**

Debbie Chapin inquired about the Town Council agenda having the topic of Fire Departments and the collection and distribution of taxes. Chief Richards advised that at the last Chiefs’ meeting it was mentioned that the Town may to do something regarding this topic. Ms. Chapin asked if the Chief was involved and he advised he was not contacted by the Town about this. The Chiefs’ have spoken about this though and are not sure if it is due to the outcome of water line issue or not. Ms. Chapin also inquired about the second offering of public comments on the agenda tonight and if this would be regularly done and if so, it should be updated in the By-Laws. President Droney advised that it is being done on a trial basis for now in response to requests for this and he is aware the By-Laws will need to be updated if it is going to be regularly done. Ms. Chapin also requested the that language in the By-Laws regarding the dates for the Regular Commission Meetings be updated from the “First Thursday of the Month” to something more representative since often it ends up being the second Thursday in the event that the first Thursday does not fall in a full week. This is so noted and will be looked at by the By-Law committee.

Brian Ellis stated that he appreciated the four commissioners that attended the Districts’ Anti-Bullying and Sexual Harassment training and to keep moving forward with the By-Law revision. And President Droney advised that we are looking at this area in the By-Laws.

For the public record per Kevin Davis’ request Commissioner Prentiss referenced a text message from Kevin Davis. Kevin wanted it mentioned at the meeting that there will be a meeting for exploring revitalizing the 125th Committee and planning events. This meeting will be 3/20 at 6pm at Station One. Becky Ellis had inquired about this. The committee and events have been sidelined due to Covid-19.

President Droney read aloud correspondence from the South Windsor Police Department to Chief Richards. A Reward recommendation was prepared for several members of their Emergency Services and during the process they learned one of their employees< Jacob Burnham is a fire Fightfighter/EMT with our service and he has been recommended for Recognition per their Reward and Recognition policy. His early CPR and actions directly resulted in saving a life. The patient is also a SW Firefighter. Chief Richards advised that he knew about this early on as his son was also there assisting. We are not certain if there will be a ceremony but the Chief will let us know.

Debbie Chapin noted that she would prefer the vote for the apparatus be done by anonymous ballot.

Maureen Brennan read aloud the minutes from the February 10th, 2022 Commission meeting. Motion by Vice President Don Hayward and second by William Moran to accept the minutes as amended. Motion passes with one abstention by Sean McGuire.

The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed and discussed. Paul Benis inquired if the town was getting any of the Federal Stimulus money and the Chief advised they received 14 million dollars but the Fire District is not receiving any of these funds. The proposed budget for 2022-23 was provided for further review and it has .5 mil decrease. Motion by Vice President Don Hayward and second by Maureen Brennan to approve report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Chief’s Report was reviewed and discussed. Motion by Vice President Don Hayward and second by Vincent Grady to approve as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Fire Marshal’s Report was reviewed and discussed. JFK is taking time because it is occupied during the renovation. Fire Marshal Ed Shirley advised that they are using a new software for their reports called ESO and there is a bit of a learning curve. Eppendorf is adding on again. Vincent Grady asked if they have enough time to complete inspections and Ed Shirley states they should be on track after April. Motion by Vice President Don Hayward and second by Paul Benis 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 there will be a large red training trailer at station two for mandatory drills. Deputy Chief Higgins explained the recent training completed on passenger rail trains and the unique complexities they pose. Vice President Don Hayward inquired if the Training Tower is still being used and yes, it is for now but they are looking at grants for a new training building. No update on recent grants. Vincent Grady asks if we can sell the driving simulator. Motion by Paul Benis and second by Gary Castle to approve report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

**Committee Reports**

President Droney advised that the By-Laws committee met tonight and there will be an update once it progresses and that they are going through the whole document.

Paul Benis inquired about the LOSAP committee and who the committee members are and advised he will request a meeting with VFIS. Scott Prentiss mentions law suits in NY that should be looked at relating to this topic.

Station Two – Civil Engineering meeting to be held 3/23/22.

Apparatus update – we have a draft purchase order to hold the apparatus until approved. It is looking like it may come in under $1 million dollars.

Strategic Planning committee update - Scott Prentiss states that the document is updated and reach out with any questions. John Santella has resigned and Greg Stokes never replied. He advised if anyone from the association would like to join to contact him.

**Old Business**

Vice President Don Hayward inquired about Fire Marshal vehicle and it is discussed. They are working on getting quotes but the supply is very limited currently. Wait is likely over a year.

Vice President Don Hayward advised he has sent the email response to the station two inquiries from Becky Ellis.

**2nd Public Comment:**

Debbie Chapin advised that the minutes as read tonight were missing items and it is discovered that the copy of the Feb 2022 minutes in the meeting packets is missing page two. It is decided that the missing page will be read for the record from the digital copy on hand.

Page two of the February 19th Regular Commission meeting minutes is read aloud by Maureen Brennan. There is a motion to approve the full minutes as amended by Paul Benis and second by William Moran

**New Business:**

President Droney advised that he would like to have representation from the district and the public on the By-Laws.

There is a motion by Vice President Don Hayward to have a referendum on March 24th, 2022 to appropriate up to $1,200,000 to cover the expense of an apparatus to replace the engines 15 and 12. Second by Gary Castle. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Motion to enter into executive session at 8:56pm by Vice President Don Hayward and second by Sean McGuire. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Out of executive session at 10:04pm with no votes taken.

Motion to adjourn at 10:05 by Vincent Grady and second William Moran. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Brennan

Clerk/Treasurer