Enfield Fire District No. 1

Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

October 6th, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Vincent Grady.

Attendees for the Board:

Paul Benis Vincent Grady

Gary Castle Patrick Droney

Sean McGuire Derek Chapin

Maureen Brennan William Moran

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

**1st Public Comment:**

Debbie Chapin of Old King Street inquired about the Safer Grant status and the approvals are rolling out in batches currently per the Deputy Chief.

Becky Ellis of David Street inquired about digital signage and President Grady advises it will be addressed under old business later in the meeting and then any remaining questions can be asked during public comment #2.

Maureen Brennan read aloud the minutes from the September 8th, 2022 Commission meeting. Motion by Patrick Droney and second by William Moran to accept the minutes as amended and the motion passes with abstentions from Sean McGuire and Vincent Grady.

The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed and discussed. Maureen Brennan requested a budget workshop prior to the next proposed budget being put forth. Chief advises this will not be starting until December because of not knowing the tax levy and this year there will be a significant increase in energy costs. Motion by Patrick Droney and second by Maureen Brennan to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Fire Marshall report was reviewed and discussed. President Grady asked if JFK has the CO completed and it is not completed yet. Ed Shirley advises that he has been looking for the specifics of the building review fees in surrounding areas and is still gathering this info. There is discussion about shifting focus to inspections and the Fire Marshall advised that there are also two more major projects coming up. Motion by Paul Benis and second by Gary Castle to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Training Officer’s Report was reviewed and discussed. Deputy Chief William Higgins advised that Engine 12 will be arriving November 1st and training is set up with manufacturer. Engine 15 and the driver simulator are for sale currently. Engine 12 driver operator training plan is in place. The SERT, large multi-department hazmat drill, was held in Windsor Locks and our role was to handle the decontamination in collaboration with the Capitol Resource Management Team. Chief added that during this drill, the DEEP had a high-quality drone with excellent capabilities for a hazmat drill such as this. William Moran also mentioned having experience with an underwater drone. The digital signage is discussed and station one would be $14,000 and the second sign for station two is $20,000 (this does not include set-up and installing it for example in a brick base). The signs are fully digital and come with 50 digital programs. The town sign regulation is discussed and it does not allow for the type of graphics included with this digital signage, for example, there can only be black and white colors and no flashing. Deputy will submit the applications to zoning asking for the digital signage we are seeking. Derek Chapin inquired about if signs would be added or replace existing and Station two would be added to existing while station one would be separate. Derek also inquired about warranty and there is a one-year warranty and Deputy will look into further details and report to the board. Motion by Gary Castle and second by William Moran to approve report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Chief’s Report was reviewed and discussed. Chief verbally provided the I-91 calls as he had omitted them from the report in error and there were 5 calls. The district received a check for $1,500 thus far for the reimbursement for these calls. President Grady advised that a department vehicle was involved in a crash during a call but thankfully no injuries were sustained. Motion by Patrick Droney and second by Paul Benis to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

**Old Business** –

Patrick Droney mentioned that the 9/11 Ceremony was a success and that the Deputy Chief did an excellent job planning this event.

Maureen Brennan reviewed Website upgrade options and we will go with current company. After reviewing pricing of other companies, this is a fair rate. A plan needs to be in place for roles and responsibilities and once completed we can move forward.

125th Anniversary Ball is postponed until further notice. More to come on this.

The Strategic Planning committee met and we have a plan to move forward using the work previously completed and putting forth a streamlined guiding document.

Patrick Droney mentioned that the proposed by-law changes have been sent to the commissioners and once agreed upon, will be sent to the lawyers for review.

Derek Chapin inquired about the Strategic planning committee and I advised it is open to all and he requested the document and I advised to ask Scott Prentiss as he authored this.

Derek Chapin advised that he was not at the last meeting and he knows that it was discussed that the same people are always coming to calls but that he would like to know the other side of this.

**Committees:**

The list of sub-committees and members was reviewed and updated.

**New Business**

Maureen Brennan mentioned an HR service and that she has spoken to Bambie and they have many services that seem that would be useful such as policy management, a dedicated HR person for the department. The price seems reasonable at $4,300 and this info was sent to commissioners and leadership. She also mentions that using this type of company may eliminate some legal fees where we would normally go to a lawyer.

President Grady advised that we will seek interested candidates for the opening created by Donald Hayward’s resignation.

President Vincent Grady accepted nominations for the opening of Vice President and there is a nomination by Paul Benis and a second by Gary Castle for Patrick Droney as VP. No other nominations were received. President Grady accepted the motion to close nominations by Gary Castle and William Moran. Patrick Droney accepts the position of Vice President and states that he appreciated Donald Hayward’s years of service.

There is a motion at 8:40pm to go into executive session by Patrick Droney and second by William Moran. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

We came out of executive session at 8:49pm with no votes taken.

**2nd Public Comment**

Lisa Ellis, Green Valley Dr., inquired as to if there can be a zoning variance. President Grady advises that it is worth looking into.

Becky Ellis, David Street, she advised she was going to ask about the town’s sign rules and were we aware of it because these signs are expensive and the rules can limit them. She also suggested that we ask the residents in the area of Station Two for feedback on the digital signage.

Motion to adjourn at 8:54pm by Vincent Grady and second by Maureen Brennan. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Brennan

Clerk/Treasurer