

Enfield Fire District No. 1
Regular Commission Meeting Minutes
April 6th, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by President Vincent Grady.

Attendees for the Board:

Paul Meunier	Paul Benis
Gary Castle	Patrick Droney
Derek Chapin	Maureen Brennan
Vincent Grady	William Moran

Chief Edward Richards and Deputy Chief William Higgins were also present.

1st Public Comment:

John Alexander, 18 Overhill Dr., advising the he feels the vote tonight is not valid since his name could not be found on the list the Registrar had. He said if this passes tonight and asked what will happen if the ethics and social media policies are not in place in the sixty days mentioned in the by-laws.

Jennifer Hilinski Shirley 12 Missile Dr. states she also is concerned about the social media and ethics policies being approved and they that are shared with the public and that she is concerned with what ethically goes on there. She also states that the meeting minutes are not available within the 7 days requirement from the meeting to discuss tax collection and that she would like to know who is collecting them.

The minutes from the March 9th, 2023 Regular Commission Meeting and the March 22nd 2023 and March 23rd 2023 Special Meetings were reviewed. Motion by Paul Meunier and second by Vice President Patrick Droney to accept the minutes and the motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and discussed. President Grady advised that we will have a separate special meeting to review next year's budget and will have a proposed budget then. VP Patrick Droney advised Grand List was received very late as well. Motion by Paul Benis and second by William Moran to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Fire Marshall report was reviewed and discussed. Motion by Vice Patrick Droney and second by Derek Chapin to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Training Officer's Report was reviewed and discussed. Deputy Chief Higgins advised that the academy classes have started up and that is the reason for increase in the training hours. Railroad accident safety training, email access, and Stop the Bleed all in progress as well. Motion by Vice President Patrick Droney and second by William Moran to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Chief's Report was reviewed and discussed. Chief Richards pointed out that it is a positive that the structure fires were at zero. Motion by Paul Meunier and second by Vice President Patrick Droney to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Old Business:

Vice President Droney inquired to the Fire Marshall about setting fees for inspections and Fire Marshall advised he has information on this.

New Business:

Vice President Droney advised that a non-profit, Penny Harris Foundation, who trains Police K-9's will be using Station Two for meetings and he is on the board and appreciates that.

Vice President Droney congratulated Kevin Ryan on his appointment to the Enfield PD.

President Grady review that status of tax collection for the district and there is consensus among commissioners to have the Town collect the taxes this year although several do not agree that the terms of the MOU were favorable. Gary Castle abstained from comments on this due to conflict as town employee.

The results of the 4/6/23 vote to approve the proposed by-law changes are read aloud and the district has voted in favor of said changes with 29 voting(yes) to approve and 6 voting (no) against the changes.

President Grady opens up nominations for the three Fire Commissioner vacancies coming up in May of 2023.

VP Patrick Droney (2 Elan) nominates Maureen Brennan (11 Sandpiper Rd) and President Grady (39 Guild) seconds this.

Paul Meunier (17 Weymouth Rd) nominates Paul Benis (2 Elizabeth) and President Grady (39 Guild) seconds the nomination.

VP Patrick Droney (2 Elan) nominates William Moran (10 Hudson) and Paul Meunier (17 Weymouth Rd) seconds

President Grady asks three time for any other nominations – there is none

President Grady entertains a motion to close nominations – so moved by Gary Castle and Second by Paul Meunier. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

2nd Public Comment

Jenifer Hilinski Shirley, 12 Missile Ln, advised that she offers her assistance with tax collection issues because she is a certified tax collector and also agrees that for now we should allow the town to collect but should have a backup plan asap.

Donald Hayward, 50 Post Rd, inquires about Station Two renovation status, and if there is an opportunity for the public to review the budget, assumes by-laws take effect immediately.

Debbie Chapin, 27 Old King St, would like to see MOU with town and district, and also inquire about entry level opening and how many it is for.

Paul Chapin, 27 Old King St, he states that we had ample time to research tax collection based on the time that the MOU was given to us by the Town Manager.

John Alexander, 18 Overhill Dr., advises he still questions validity of the vote even though the Registrar said differently. He would like a legal opinion from the lawyer if acceptable.

Motion to add executive session to agenda by VP Patrick Droney and second by Maureen Brennan. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Motion to enter into executive session at 8:12pm by Vice President Droney and second by William Moran. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Commission is out of executive session at 8:30pm with no votes taken.

Motion to adjourn at 8:30pm by Paul Meunier and second by Maureen Brennan. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Brennan

Clerk/Treasurer