

Enfield Fire District No. 1
Regular Commission Meeting Minutes
March 9th, 2023

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

Attendees for the Board:

Paul Meunier	Paul Benis
Gary Castle	Patrick Droney
Sean McGuire	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., read aloud a statement from Debbie Chapin, Old King Street, regarding the public informational session on the by-laws and asked that it be added to the minutes (see appendix A).

Kevin Davis, Glendale Rd., stated the Association held a past member dinner and it was well attended and a success with good meal prepared by Ian McGregor and Tommy Burnham. Kevin also stated that, with the assistance of Rebecca, he has put together a more comprehensive new member packet with all necessary documents. The Association is beginning a recruitment effort and Isaac Adelberg is going to head it up. And Ladies' Night is April 22nd.

John Alexander, 18 Overhill Dr., mentioned that a bill in the State Legislature to set up a taskforce to look at the problem of attracting people to join the fire service. He states it is a national problem too.

The minutes from the February 9th, 2023 Regular Commission and the February 22nd Special meeting were reviewed and discussed. A correction was noted and made under Old Business. Motion by Vice President Patrick Droney and second by William Moran to accept the minutes as amended and the motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and discussed. Vice President Droney inquired about electric rate and how we are managing. Chief Richards advises that we are ok and also ok with oil and mentioned having diesel tanks in the event of a shortage. Motion by Paul Benis and second by Paul Meunier 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 ladder testing was completed last week and the maze trailer will be here from the CT Fire Academy in

late April and it is a mandatory drill that is done in conjunction with North Thompsonville. Community CPR classes were a success and were both full and LJ and Isaac did a great job running these. We will continue these types of community courses. May is "Stop the Bleed" month and we will be holding a course on this as well. Vice President Patrick Droney recommended having a public outreach/training on train derailment. Motion by Maureen Brennan and second by Vice President Patrick Droney to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Fire Marshall report was reviewed and discussed. The Fire Marshall states that with the new computer system and email changes for the district, people need to let the Fire Marshall's office know if the emails are not going through and he noted that the @enfield.org emails are no longer valid for the district. Motion by Paul Benis 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 Derek Chapin to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Committees:

By-Law – Vice President Patrick Droney states that the By-Law Informational session was widely publicized. It was put in the Journal Inquirer, Website, and the Enfield Patch. There were originally four members of the By-Law Committee present for the meeting and seeing that one member of the public was in attendance at the meeting, a member left since there was more than ample amount of members on-hand to field questions. He also stated that the meeting was not rushed and we answered all the questions that were posed to us. Maureen Brennan advised there was no end time to the meeting and we would have continued to stay and answer questions as long as needed. The by-laws draft had been posted to the website and had been reviewed by a district attorney. Any corrections needed have been made since the meeting. Maureen Brennan stated that Vice President Droney put together a good power point showing the reasoning for any changes and it also included appendices showing the surrounding districts that have similar rules in place. Vice President Droney advised that if anyone would like a copy of the power point, it can be sent and Maureen Brennan advised some copies have been requested and sent already. Gary Castle stated that he supports pledging to the Flag and he stated that we used to meet in a different room that did not have the flag so we had not been doing that in the past. It is decided that the pledge will take place in the room with the flag but the agenda does not need a separate line item (pledge will be done under commencement of meeting) as there may be times when we meet in another room etc. Vice President Droney also stated that the by-laws meeting to vote on the changes was originally set for March 16th but in order to allow proper warning it is being moved to March 23rd.

Derek Chapin asked if the by-laws were reviewed by a lawyer and we advised that this was stated earlier in the meeting and that yes, they were sent to the lawyer. Maureen Brennan advised that we would not propose new by-laws without having the lawyer review.

Old Business –

President Grady asked the Chief about budget meetings and if we have numbers/grand list. He asked the commissioners be mindful that we will have budget meetings coming up.

William Moran expressed his thanks for flowers and sympathies in the passing of his mother.

Vice President Droney asked about commissioners having a district email address and the Chief advises it should be available and the Deputy Chief will provide that contact person to the commission.

Vice President Droney stated that there was a question about by-laws as it relates to voting on apparatus. In by-laws version before this, we allowed the apparatus vote to be done in a meeting and the proposed by-laws change it back to this from an all-day type of vote. Based on feedback we will remove the change and hold a vote from 12pm-8pm. The change will be made to the proposed by-laws and placed on the website.

President Grady inquired about the monies received from the State for the motor vehicle taxes reimbursement. We discussed that we want this to be given back to the tax payers via offset in the next budget. Also, it is noted that we do not know if the State is going to continue this program so we cannot plan on receiving the money again.

Derek Chapin inquired to the Deputy Chief asking if there is any interest in the driving simulator and there is none. He also inquired about the prime mover and the Deputy advised that he has not been asked to sell this and that we are using it for hazmat training purposes.

New Business:

Vice President Patrick Droney recognized three Enfield Police Dept members who recently retired, Canine Officer Chris Dufrense, Ed Nuno, and Ed Kasmerek and that he had the privilege of working with them and wishes them the best.

Vice President Droney suggests that we should look into FROI training for all commissioners either through the HR company, Shipman and Goodwin, or CCM.

Paul Meunier thanked Kevin Davis for putting together the new member packet.

Paul Meunier also suggested that we have an alternate plan for getting fuel other than the town. Chief advised we have tanks if needed and credit card for fuel company.

Gary Castle advised that he would like the dept to look further into Fire Marshall fees. President Grady advised that he would like us to look into charging the town for Fire Marshall fees.

President Grady reads aloud the Legal Notice for district meeting regarding action if any on by-laws. There is discussion on timing of vote and is this a “town hall” style meeting or voting and it is decided that we will begin the meeting at 7pm and hold the vote at the meeting. If we wish to do a ballot vote that can likely be decided at the time of the meeting.

Derek Chapin suggested that all vehicles should have the chevron striping for safety and complimented whomever has done it on the apparatus that has it currently. He also suggested CPAT be a minimum requirement and not a preferred requirement for fire fighters. It is explained by the Deputy Chief and the Chief that since this training is only offered twice a year, that timing would be an issue and that they see the value in it however and encourage it.

Vice President Droney made a motion to authorize Deputy Chief Higgins to apply for the Safer Grant and a second by Maureen Brennan. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

2nd Public Comment

Ed Shirley, Missile Ln, he mentioned that although he heard Station Two renovation is on hold, drawings were picked up to go to the Town.

Motion to enter into executive session at 8:41pm by Paul Benis and second by Vice President Droney. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Commission is out of executive session at 9:30pm with no votes taken.

Motion to adjourn at 9:32pm by Vice President Droney and second by William Moran. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Brennan

Clerk/Treasurer

To be read during the public comment

Public Comment -Debbie Chapin, Old King Street

As much as I was grateful for the public information ^{session} ~~section~~ of the proposed by-laws, I found it rushed and many questions went unanswered. It was disappointing that the committee was to be on hand to answer questions, but only three showed up to the meeting.

Highlights of my concerns are:

- Section 4.6 Voting procedure -the removal of "the purchase of fire apparatus", but when asked ,was unable to show where it says that purchasing fire apparatus must go before a vote and voted on between the hours of 12:00PM to 8:00PM.
- Section 4.6 "All other matters" allows the board to set their own hours, not allowing the public ample time to vote.
- Section 4.5 According to the proposed by-laws it is now a conflict of interest to have two family units on the Commission (rest assured I have no interest in running) being a firefighter in town, but a family unit (as listed in 4.5) related to a firefighter or officers is not a conflict of interest? There are more conflicts than just personnel and financial that would benefit said firefighter or officer.
- Why is there two conflict of interest sections -4.5 and 4.8?
- Incorrect Chapter numbers, should have been proof read better before presenting to the public. Did your lawyer even look this over?
- I find it unpatriotic that the pledge Allegiance is not listed as part of the meeting agendas.

I am requesting that this public comment be put in the minutes of the March 9th commissioner meeting in its entirety.