

ENFIELD FIRE DISTRICT NO 1  
ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

The Annual Meeting was called to order by President Vincent Grady at 8:12 p.m.

Commission Attendees: Patrick Droney, Paul Benis, Maureen Brennan, Vincent Grady, Derek Chapin, William Moran, Sean McGuire, Gary Castle, and Paul Meunier.

Also in Attendance: Chief Edward Richards and Deputy Chief Higgins

There were 84 taxpayers present.

Article I: To appoint a moderator

President Vincent Grady advises that he will accept nominations for moderator.

There is a nomination by Vincent Grady and second by Patrick Droney to appoint Paul Meunier as moderator. A vote is taken and the result is a vote of 43 for and 25 against.

There is a nomination by Gary Lazzaro and second by Lisa Ellis to appoint Scott Prentiss as moderator. A vote is taken and the result is a vote of 25 for and 43 against.

Paul Meunier is appointed as moderator. President Grady makes a motion to close the nominations for moderator and Vice President Patrick Droney seconds the motion. Commissioners pass this motion by unanimous voice vote.

Article II: To hear reports of the Officers.

Chief Edward Richards gives his annual department report.

Debra Chapin of 27 Old King Street inquires about the monthly increase breakdown amount and the Chief answers.

Article III (presented to the president by Donald Ellis)

Mr. President: I present this resolution and move for its adoption.

Be it hereby resolved:

That a budget in the amount of \$4,200,000 as compiled by the District Commissioners to cover the operating expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, be approved and that a sum in the amount of \$4,200,000 be appropriated from the general fund to cover the expenses for the fiscal year 2023-2024.

And be it also resolved:

That the Officers of the Board be authorized to select the depository for the District operating fund, the general fund, and the capital fund.

There is a motion by Lisa Ellis and a second by Scott Prentiss to move to a secret paper ballot. There is a vote of 39 for and 44 against and zero abstentions. Motion fails. Per request of an audience member, it is confirmed that there are 84 residents checked-in to the meeting as eligible to vote.

#### Discussion:

Scott Prentiss asked why there was no public discussion on the budget. The Moderator advised that there was opportunity for communication but little to none was received. Mr. Prentiss asked why there was no public meeting to discuss the budget. President Grady advised that the Commission is elected to make decisions for the District in order for the District to run and that the public does not make decisions on specific personnel appointments. President Grady also advised that the tax revenue amount was received very late and that delayed the budget approval process and that the budget has been on the district website for two weeks.

An audience member stated they would like to have seen more information on the budget.

An audience member asked about the number of fire calls in the past compared to this year and asked if there was an issue last year with less personnel.

An audience member said the town has public hearings where questions can be answered in a back and forth manner and questioned why we do not do it this way. Commissioner Brennan explained that a public hearing held by the town is only a one-way communication and it's just a hearing to hear input. She also stated a press release was posted concerning the budget, the budget has been on the website for two weeks, several commissioners attended a Fire Association Meeting to answer questions, and the Commissioners are all available to answer questions (email and cell on webpage).

Donald Hayward states that the town has not changed appraisal rates like it did last year and he understood the budget process delay then because of the appraisal change. But this year, the Chief should have been able to do a budget right at the beginning of the current fiscal year and that the delay meant the Commission had not presented a budget in a timely manner to properly evaluate.

Moderator calls for a vote on the adoption of Article III. The adoption of Article III passes with 42 in favor, 33 against, and 2 abstentions.

#### Article IV (presented by Christopher Ellis)

Mr. President: I present this resolution and move for its adoption.

Be it hereby resolved:

That the Board of Fire Commissioners be authorized to make intra-budget transfers from available unexpended balances of budget items to other budget items for which there is an over-expenditure, if same becomes necessary.

Moderator calls for a vote on the adoption of Article IV. The adoption of Article IV passes with 47 in favor, 21 against, and 4 abstentions.

#### Article V

President Vincent Grady stated three persons were nominated for the three positions up for election. One vote was cast by Clerk/Treasurer Maureen Brennan for all three persons nominated. The names of those elected were Maureen Brennan, Paul Benis, and William Moran.

#### Article VI (presented by Becky Ellis)

Mr. President: I present this resolution and move for its adoption.

Be it hereby resolved:

That a 3.24 mill tax be laid on the Grand List of October 1, 2022, due July 1, 2023.

Moderator calls for a vote on the adoption of Article VI. The adoption of Article VI passes with 43 in favor, 10 against, and 9 abstentions.

Article VII (presented by Daniel Kosicki)

Mr. President: I present this resolution and move for its adoption.

Be it hereby resolved:

That the Board of Fire Commissioners be authorized to transfer any unexpended portion of the fiscal year 2022-2023 budgeted funds to the capital fund account.

Discussion:

Ron-aladneoma Myers-Brooks inquired if there will be a paper trail of said transfer and if it is public. Commissioner Brennan advised yes. this is tracked and it is public. If it's not available elsewhere to request same.

Moderator calls for a vote on the adoption of Article VII. The adoption of Article VII passes with 43 in favor, 4 against and 14 abstentions.

Article VIII (Presented by Christopher Benton)

Mr. President: I present this resolution and move for its adoption.

Be it hereby resolved:

That the District Treasurer be authorized to temporarily transfer funds from the capital fund account to cover any short fall of funds between July 1, 2023, and such time as the tax revenue is received from the Town of Enfield should same become necessary.

Moderator calls for a vote on the adoption of Article VIII. The adoption of Article VIII passes with 49 in favor, 0 against, and 9 abstentions.

Article IX (Presented by William Higgins)

Mr. President: I present this resolution and move for its adoption.

Be it hereby resolved:

That all acts of the Officers and Commissioners of Enfield Fire District No. 1, in connection with the business done for and on behalf of the District since the last Annual Meeting, as evidenced by the records, be hereby approved, ratified, and confirmed.

Moderator calls for a vote on the adoption of Article IX. The adoption of Article IX passes with 48 in favor, 2 against, and 7 abstentions.

Meeting is adjourned at 9:08pm.