

Enfield Fire District No. 1
Regular Commission Meeting Minutes
December 14th, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by President Vincent Grady.

Attendees for the Board:

Paul Meunier	Paul Benis
Gary Castle	Patrick Droney
Maureen Brennan	William Moran
Vincent Grady	Sean McGuire

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

1st Public Comment:

None

The minutes from the November 9th, 2023 Regular Commission Meeting were reviewed. Motion by Paul Benis and second by William Moran to accept the minutes as presented and the motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The November 27th Special Meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion by Paul Meunier and second by Vice President Patrick Droney to accept the minutes as presented and the motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed and discussed. Motion by Paul Meunier and second by Maureen Brennan to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Fire Marshal report was reviewed and discussed. Discussion about Win Stanley footprint being reduced and confirmation that LL Bean is coming to the district. 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 Higgins provided an incident tracker, requested by Commissioner McGuire, to quantify the number of calls the department has been able to attend with the increase in coverage and there was over 50 in the last month. Commissioner Brennan asked if we are also to assist with coverage for area departments more with 24/7 and Deputy Chief Higgins confirmed that we have. Deputy Chief Higgins advised that the fundraiser for Brian Bigda, Thompsonville Fire Fighter fighting cancer, was attended by hundreds of people. He also mentioned that DC Dave Laponese is retiring from North Thompsonville on 12/15/23. 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. The key topics at the recent conference attended by the Chief were residential sprinkler requirements and lithium batteries. Motion by Vice President Patrick Droney and second by Paul Meunier to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Comments:

Gary Castle wished all Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and inquired about the Association presenting at the meetings.

Paul Meunier wished all Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

William Moran mentioned that there was a serious accident on the highway that had a difficult outcome and thanks to our firefighters and know that the department is here should you need support.

Vice President Patrick Droney reiterated Commissioner Moran's sentiments on the accident and thanked those who put together the debrief in a timely and thorough manner. He also wanted to remember two off duty firefighters in other CT districts who unfortunately were fatally injured in a Lisbon car accident, and in Salem a Firefighter was struck by a car. He also wished Dave Lapponese the best in retirement. He also congratulated Capt. Golden from EPD congrats on retirement and to Lt. Brian Nolan who will take his place. And wished all Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

President Vincent Grady wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and enjoy your families. He mentioned that he was happy that we were able to fill our openings internally and that the future is bright for our department.

Old Business:

President Grady said we have two candidates for the opening on the Commission vacated by Derek Chapin. They are Christopher Foley of 26 Steele Road and John Alexander of 18 Overhill Road.

President Grady asked Mr. Alexander if he would like to say a few words about his background and interest in the position. Mr. Alexander said you all know me. He is still in fire service as an instructor at the Fire Academy. He still very interested in this position.

New Business:

There is a motion by Gary Castle to vote by paper ballot for either John Alexander or Chris Foley to fill the open position on the Commission and a second by Maureen Brennan. Motion passes with one abstention from VP Patrick Droney.

Paper ballots are handed out and filled out. DC Higgins collected and counted the ballots. The results were:

- 4 votes for Christopher Foley
- 3 votes for John Alexander
- 1 abstention

President Grady advised that Christopher Foley will fill the opening for the remainder of the term which is until 2025.

Paul Meunier updated the Commission on a meeting he attended with the Chief regarding consolidation of three districts, EFD, TFD, and NTFD. The topics of public interest in consolidation were brought up and he advised there are many legal questions that need to be answered. He feels a Union Member and a Volunteer should also attend these meetings. Commissioner Droney mentioned that he has the list of debts associated with each district and that he believes these would need to be dissolved or absorbed before consolidation.

Commissioner Brennan updated the group on the latest meeting regarding tax collection. The topic of MV tax bills being eliminated was discussed and it was explained that if the MV tax goes away, the offset does not go directly to homeowners and is spread out among commercial and residential properties. There is also a consideration of the large amount of interest the town collects and keeps as part of collecting our taxes.

President Grady felt that doing a second set of tones can take up airtime and the Chief advised this may still be under consideration.

Second Public Comment:

None

Motion to enter into executive session at 7:21pm by Vice President Patrick Droney and second by William Moran. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Commission is out of executive session at 8:10 pm with no votes taken.

Motion to adjourn at 8:10pm by Vice President Patrick Droney and second by William Moran. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Brennan

Clerk/Treasurer