

Enfield Fire District No. 1  
Regular Commission Meeting Minutes  
October 10, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Vice President Patrick Droney.

Attendees for the Board:

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

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

**1st Public Comment:**

None

**Communication and Reports:**

The minutes from the September 12, 2024 Regular Commission Meeting were reviewed. Motion by Maureen Brennan and second by Paul Meunier to accept the minutes as presented and the motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and discussed. Motion by Gary Castle and second by William Moran to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Fire Marshal's report was reviewed and discussed. 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. August training hours were corrected and reflected in the current report. There is an uptick in training, common in the fall, there is town-wide training, driver training, etc. Replacement committee for Engine 14 continues to meet, no updates. Three new officers in the new I-Lead officer training. Deputy Chief Higgins made the Commission aware of a company that offers cancer screenings and he will go over it in more detail under new business. Motion by Paul Benis and second by Paul Meunier approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Chief's Report was reviewed and discussed. It is noted that the increase in calls is due, in part, to overnight medical calls. Motion by William Moran and second by Gary Castle to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Association's bank balances were reviewed. Motion to accept report as presented by Paul Meunier and second by Paul Benis. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

### **Board Member Comments:**

Sean McGuire mentioned that the Commission does not typically approve the Association report as it is not in our purview. It is agreed that we will not vote on it in the future.

Gary Castle mentioned that he would like an update on the status of the Association (i.e., membership, meetings, active, inactive).

### **Old Business:**

Commissioner Meunier provided an update on the Consolidation meetings he has attended with the other districts in town. Search for a consolidation consultant is ongoing. He presented a letter of retainment for UKS legal services to be involved for our district and the district pays one-fifth of the legal fees incurred for consolidation. A motion is made to sign the letter of agreement by Paul Meunier and second by Gary Castle. Motion is discussed – signing this document means that we agree to share one-fifth of the legal fees incurred to move forward with consolidation. There is discussion on opt out and having enough info on consolidation to make a decision. A question arose regarding the district's tax collection and then a motion is made to table the motion to sign the UKS agreement by William Moran and second by Sean McGuire to allow for an update on tax collection. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Maureen Brennan provided an update on the tax collection discussions. The districts met and agreed to put forth a flat rate for a ten (or more) year contract, not an MOU, with a modest increase over time. The concept of a flat rate was put forth rather than a percent of the grand list because there is no change to the function of collecting the districts' taxes relative to a change, up or down, in the grand list. It is discussed that the Town does not incur additional costs to have the fire districts' tax amount printed on the tax bills from the company (QDS) that they utilize for the mailing, software, etc. The Town primarily has to report on and disburse the funds to the state and districts, respectively. The Town "makes the districts whole" by a certain date and then collects the interest and fees paid on the delinquent taxes.

There is a motion to remove the motion to sign the letter of agreement off the table by Gary Castle and second by William Moran. There is a discussion – Commissioner Brennan inquired as to if we should wait and do the motion concurrently with the resolution. The opt out was reviewed, either party can withdraw from the contract. Commissioner Brennan advised that we do not have a list of pros and cons and that we should have a public meeting before moving forward in an official capacity so that if there is a change in the tax bills there is transparency. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote. Motion is no longer tabled.

(Untabled) Motion is made to sign the letter of agreement for UKS by Paul Meunier and second by Gary Castle is discussed. Concerns of apparatus and debt are reviewed. Vice President Patrick Dronev advised that he would like to see public input on the consolidation if it moves forward. It is noted that the consultant is not hired yet to handle the consolidation. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Vice President Patrick Droney inquired about the status of the digital signage previously looked into. It is discussed that the Town has regulations prohibiting the use of colors and the quotes were higher than expected.

**New Business:**

Deputy Chief Higgins gave an overview of cancer screenings by Grail Bio which would be above and beyond typical screening. They have developed a proprietary cancer screening for a specific cancer. The screenings are most beneficial for those over 50 years old. The company will do a virtual meeting and the Deputy will provide further info including pricing.

Paul Meunier advised he is available to assist with setting up the tablets and he proposed that we do not use paper materials for the meetings starting in December but rather receive digital copies. Maureen Brennan advised she will ask the HR company for a status on adding a clause to our tech policy regarding turning in equipment.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Public Comment**

None

Motion to enter into executive session at 7:34pm by Maureen Brennan and second by Gary Castle. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Came out of executive session at 8:31pm with no votes taken.

Motion to adjourn at 8:31pm by Maureen Brennan and second by Paul Benis. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Brennan

Clerk/Treasurer