

Enfield Fire District No. 1
Regular Commission Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Vice President Patrick Droney.

Attendees for the Board:

Paul Meunier	William Moran
Gary Castle	Maureen Brennan
Christopher Foley	Paul Benis
Patrick Droney	

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

1st Public Comment:

Deb Chapin, Old King St., would like information on where the meeting materials can be accessed.

Communication and Reports:

The minutes from the November 14, 2024 Regular Commission Meeting were reviewed. Motion by Paul Meunier and second by William Moran to accept the minutes as presented and the motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and discussed. Motion by Maureen Brennan second by William Moran and the motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Chief's Report was reviewed and discussed. Chief Richards mentions that we have over 500 more calls compared to this period last year. There was a minor ammonia leak at the Enfield Twin Rinks. Motion by Paul Benis and second by Gary Castle to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Fire Marshal's report was reviewed and discussed. Discussion on sink hole on Simon Rd. Maureen Brennan inquired about amount of time spent on Town buildings to relate it to cost. Motion by William Moran and second by Paul Benis to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Training Officer's Report was reviewed and discussed. Firefighters attended career day at Enfield High School for cadet recruitment. One FF completed FF3 certification. Three members in EMT. Cancer screening test will take place with all Enfield Departments and East Windsor. There will be approximately 75 participants and they start with esophageal screenings (cost may be covered by insurance – pending). Staffing report representing one-year summary since implementing 24/7 coverage reviewed. Many positives and some learnings with staffing.

Station One quarters are in need of updating. Motion by Gary Castle and second by Paul Meunier to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Committee Reports:

Vice President Patrick Droney advised that the HR committee has met to discuss options for upcoming contract negotiations.

Board Member Comments:

Maureen Brennan clarified the public comment concerning having meeting materials available to the public. It is decided that although we ultimately wish to go paperless or close to that, we will have printouts of materials available for the next meeting. We will evaluate if we have a working solution to publish the materials online.

All other commissioners present wish the staff a safe and Happy New and especially reminded them to prepare for the cold.

Old Business:

Maureen Brennan explained that the fire districts met with the Town to discuss a revised proposal for the Town to collect the districts' taxes. Motion made by Maureen Brennan to move forward on (meaning being included in the contract) a fee for tax collection equal to 2% of the Town tax levy for a ten-year contract and there is a second by William Moran. There is discussion about options should we not accept this. It is noted that Town incurs little to no cost to collect our taxes. However, they feel that it is reasonable to charge this amount. It is noted that the Town advised they would not negotiate beyond these terms. It is noted that these terms are a reduction from the 3% charges for many years in the past. The motion passes 4-3 with Maureen Brennan, Christopher Foley, and Paul Meunier voting no.

Christopher Foley and Maureen Brennan request that we hold a meeting for the public on the topic of consolidation and to set a date for the new year.

New Business:

None.

2nd Public Comment:

Brian Ellis of 7 King Ct provided an update on the Torch Light parade advising that it was very well received. He also noted the good work done to refurbish the gym at Station One. He also mentioned that the department is supporting the Wreaths Across America this year, providing temporary storage for the wreaths.

Deb Chapin of Old King St. advised that she agrees having printed copies of the materials for the meetings available is ideal. She also mentioned that she does not understand why the district didn't just go the tax collection company. She also mentioned that she would like to see signage such as the Town's public hearing signs for the Fire Commission meetings.

Motion to adjourn at 7:34pm by Vice Paul Menier and second by Maureen Brennan passes by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Brennan

Clerk/Treasurer