

Enfield Fire District No. 1
Regular Commission Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by President Vincent Grady

Attendees for the Board:

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

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

1st Public Comment:

None.

Communication and Reports:

President Grady opened the nominations for the three commissioner positions up for vote this year. The commissioners' terms that are expiring are Gary Castle, Christopher Foley, and Sean McGuire. President Grady made nominations for Gary Castle, Christopher Foley, and Sean McGuire. Upon receiving no further nominations, President Grady closed nominations. Vice President Droney made a motion to accept the nominations with a second by William Moran and advised there will be one vote cast by the secretary for the three positions.

The minutes from the March 13, 2025 Regular Commission Meeting were reviewed. Motion by Maureen Brennan and second by Paul Benis to accept the minutes as presented and the motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Fire Marshal's report was reviewed and discussed. Motion by Vice President Droney and second by Paul Meunier to approve the report as presented. Maureen Brennan inquired about electronic payments for fees and there is not a call for this. Christopher Foley asked if there is a requirement for reinspection when a liquor license is renewed and there is not. He also inquired about the school safety committee. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Training Officer's Report was reviewed and discussed. Motion by Gary Castle and second by Paul Benis to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Chief's Report was reviewed and discussed. Chief advised that we had 12 less calls compared to previous year. No major incidents in our district but we provided mutual aid in a couple major incidents. Motion by Christopher Foley and second by Vice President Droney to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

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

Committee Reports:

Apparatus: Cost and diagram will be available soon.

Budget: Met earlier this week.

Station Two: Paul Chapin and Don Hayward will let President Grady know shortly if they wish to stay on the committee.

Board Member Comments:

Christopher Foley advised that light the night is 4/27/25 to 5/4/25 when red lights are displayed at homes to remember fallen firefighters.

Maureen Brennan thanked the HR committee for their time and effort in working on the Union contract.

Old Business:

President Grady advised that we would discuss the topic of consolidation and that guests Steven Burke and Mark Zarcaro were present as representatives from the consolidation committee for other districts in town and that we will allow a Q & A period as well. Maureen Brennan summarized the District's position on consolidation stating that more information is needed specific to this district to educate the constituents on the impact. She also states that the district mil rate would increase among other factors and that the EFD will attend consolidation meetings and are open to it in the future. Steven Burke and Mark Zarcaro gave an update on the consolidation process that the four other districts are undertaking including that May 1, 2025 is the target date to sign an agreement that will then give them 18 months to complete the necessary steps for consolidation.

Mayor Ken Nelson, 17 Louise St, states that he appreciates the explanation of the district position on consolidation and hopes that we continue to attend meetings and keep the option open and we advised we will. He also states that he will do all he can to ensure that the fire service remains independent of the Town.

Deb Chapin, Old King St, inquired as to if and/or when consolidation occurs of the participating districts, does it have to be all at once. She is advised that it is all at once (merger or dissolving of districts).

Mayor Ken Nelson, 17 Louise St, suggested that if all five districts were to consolidate, they could add language in the by-laws of the newly formed entity which would set certain requirements in place to avoid being taken over by the Town. He stated he was against it when the Town took over EMS.

New Business:

A motion is made by Vice President Droney that the 2025-2026 proposed budget created by the Chief with no mil rate increase be put forth for a vote at the annual District meeting on May 1, 2025.

2nd Public Comment:

Donald Hayward, Post Rd, states he is pleased that the proposed budget has no increase in the mil rate and that there is a minor error in the March minutes as President Grady is not shown as present but he was at the meeting (let this show the correction).

Deb Chapin, Old King St, asked if the documents could be projected at meetings or available in print at meetings.

Mayor Ken Nelson, 17 Louise St, thanked the District for a proposed budget that has no increase in the mil rate and he understands that it is a difficult task.

Ed Shirley, Missile Dr, reminded folks of Ladies Night on April 18, 2025 and that the past members' dinner was a success.

Mr. Golino, Copper Ln, pointed out that if the five districts were to consolidate that there would not be a guarantee of representation of our district/area of town and asked if measures can be taken to ensure there is representation. Point is taken and it is advised that we will pass this on to the consolidation committee.

Motion to go into executive session at 7:24pm by Vice Patrick Droney and second by William Moran. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Out of executive session at 8:22pm with no votes taken.

Motion to adjourn at 8:22pm by Paul Meunier and second by Vice President Droney. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Brennan
Clerk/Treasurer