

Enfield Fire District No. 1  
Regular Commission Meeting Minutes  
April 9th, 2026

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

Attendees for the Board:

Paul Meunier	William Moran
Gary Castle	Vinny Grady
Christopher Foley	Paul Benis
Patrick Droney	

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

**1st Public Comment:**

Don Hayward of Post Rd. asked about a \$6 million grant issued to the Fire Departments, and Enfield was supposed to be getting some of that money.

Chief Richards explained that the Enfield received \$100,000 and it all went to the Shaker Pines district.

Brian Ellis from King Ct delivered a letter to each Commissioner present.

Brian Ellis from King Ct informed the district about the new challenge coins created commemoration the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11

**Nominations of Three Commissioners Positions:**

Commissioners Moran, Bennis and Brennan are up for re-election.

William Moran was nominated by Vice President Droney and seconded by President Vinny Grady.

Maureen Brennan was nominated by Paul Meunier and seconded by Paul Benis.

Paul Benis was nominated by Christopher Foley but declined to run.

Christene DeBonee of Grandview Dr was nominated by William Higgins and seconded by William Moran

Tom Gelineau of Copper Dr was nominated by Christopher Foley but he declined

A motion to close the nominations was made by Vice President Droney and seconded by Paul Meunier

### **Communication and Reports:**

The minutes from the March 12, 2026 Regular Commission Meeting were reviewed. Motion by Paul Benis and second by Gary Castle to accept the minutes as presented and the motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and discussed. Motion by Vice President Patrick Droney second by William Moran and the motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Fire Marshal's report was reviewed and discussed. Motion by Gary Castle and second by Vice President Patrick Droney to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The Training Officer's Report was reviewed and discussed. Deputy Chief Higgens introduced the new Personnel Assistant Jessica Paturso to the Commission. Motion by Paul Meunier 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. Motion by Vice President Patrick Droney and second by Paul Meunier to approve the report as presented. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

### **Committee Reports:**

Apparatus committee still expects delivery of the new apparatus in 2028

Budget committee worked with the Chief to maintain the mill rate for our district at a 0% increase

### **Board Member Comments:**

Gary Castle wanted to remind everyone of Dispatcher Appreciation week and thanked the Commissioners for recognizing the contributions the Dispatchers make to our district

Paul Benis Gave his appreciations and thanks to everyone on the board for the many years of service working with everyone

Paul Meunier thanked Paul Benis for all his contributions

Patrick Droney thanked the dispatchers for all they do and recognized their contributions to the safety to the town and he went on to thank Paul Benis for his contributions to the district

President Grady spoke of the dispatchers and mentioned the gift card we gave to them and thanked Paul Benis for his many years of service.

Christopher Foley asked a question about the application process wondering if the application job duties could be construed as a job description for those currently working. Deputy Chief Higgins answered it was not and Commissioner Foley then asked if the current firefighters had a job description. Deputy Chief Higgins answered yes.

### **Old Business:**

Vice President Droney asked about the proposed training facility and the monies donated to that goal. Chief Richards and Deputy Chief Higgins explained that the building approval had been lost due to age and non-renewal. They went on to explain the proposed building plan behind Shaker Pines Fire Department. Chief Richards and Deputy Chief Higgins explained how the Enfield Fire District was the only district to have put funds into the project every year as agreed and that there are several departments still in arrears.

Vice President Droney asked if work was still being done on the use policy for the pavilion. Christopher Foley asked if stain could be put on the new wood of the pavilion.

Christopher Foley made a motion that certain committees should be re-aligned as suggested in January and adopted in June. The motion was seconded by Vice President Droney. Gary Castle made a motion to table the original motion for one month in order to research it more and was seconded by Paul Meunier. The motion was voted on six for and one opposed.

### **Public discussion of the proposed budget:**

Chief Richards explained the increases in some of the budget items citing contractual pay raises and health care cost increases as some of the larger expenditures.

Deb Chapin, King St., asked if the budget would be published on the web site and President Grady said it would if it were approved this evening.

Brian Ellis, Old King St. commented that the commissioners who were present the night of the workshop did a very good job scrutinizing the budget looking to make savings where possible.

### **New Business:**

A motion was made by Gary Castle to accept the proposed budget and was seconded by Paul Benis. The motion was voted on with unanimous approval.

The Association report was discussed

President Grady brought up the PTO Policy and asked if everyone had time to review it. A motion to accept the PTO Policy was made by William Moran and seconded by Paul Benis. The motion was voted on with six for and one abstention.

Paul Meunier mentioned he would like to see a way for the public to sign up for a newsletter where the meeting packet were emailed to them. Deputy Chief thinks it is a feature of our web site.

Christopher Foley asked if anyone was familiar with the GOGOV emails some have been receiving and thinks it may be along the same lines as what Commissioner Meunier was mentioning

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

Brian Ellis, Old King St. thanked the commission for recognizing the Enfield Dispatchers during National Dispatcher Appreciation Week

Don Hayward, Post Rd,, thanked the Commission for their work keeping the mil rate the same this year but asked that it be posted before the meeting instead of being presented at the meeting

Deb Chapin, King St. mentioned the town was looking into changing the electric signage regulations which could be used to promote our meetings.

Motion to adjourn at 7:57pm by Vice President Patrick Droney and second by William Moran. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Meunier

Clerk/Treasurer