

Regular Meeting of the
Board of TFD Fire Commissioners

DRAFT -- Meeting Minutes – October 18, 2023
Thompsonville Fire Station, 35 N. Main Street, Enfield, CT

1. Call to Order:

By Comm. Perry at 7:03 pm.

2. Pledge of Alliance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

3. Roll Call:

Present were Comm. Perry, Comm. Bouthiette, Comm. Gillespie, Comm. Pliszka, and Comm. Crowley. Also, present was Administrative Assistant Steneri.

4. Approval of Minutes from September 20 Regular Meeting:

MOTION *for the approval of the minutes from September 20th regular meeting,* made by Comm. Gillespie, seconded by Comm. Crowley. Discussion: none. Roll Call-
Motion passed 5-0.

5. Chief's Report:

Comm. Perry said the Commissioners can read the Chief's report since he is not in attendance.

6. Treasurer's Report:

Comm. Perry said the Commissioners have all the financial reports. Everything seems to be in order. There is nothing that stands out.

Comm. Pliszka said the money needs to be transferred into the apparatus and community outreach line items so it shows on the reports.

7. Public Communications:

None.

8. Commissioners' Communications:

Comm. Crowley congratulated the members that responded to the Enfield Street fire. It is fantastic that no one was injured. It was a great stop considering how old those houses are.

9. Old Business: a) Update on Tax Collection, b) Liaison Report – Smoke Detectors:

Update on Tax Collection:

Comm. Perry said the Districts have received new information. We are having a meeting with the former Assessor for the Town of Enfield on Friday. She will review all of the paperwork. I can't make a decision without talking to someone who is a professional.

Comm. Perry said she, Comm. Pliszka, and Admin. Asst. Steneri have concerns with the company. Our attorney reviewed the proposed contract and he has several questions.

Admin. Asst. Steneri said we attended a meeting on October 11th and there were some questions that were brought up. Some of the answers are in the first email in the Commissioners' packets. The follow up email contains answers to the rest of the questions.

Comm. Pliszka said he forwarded an email from Pat Droney to the rest of the Commission.

Comm. Pliszka said the Districts need the final contract because we need to know what the numbers are.

Comm. Perry said that is why I want to sit down with Della, review everything with her, and get her opinion. We only have an MOU with the Town. I would like to have a contract if we are going to stay with them.

Comm. Crowley asked what position would the District be in if the Town gave us the thirty-day notice tomorrow. Comm. Perry said we would be okay because we already received our tax revenue. We would have a set amount of time to find another

company to collect our taxes. Comm. Crowley asked what is our window. Comm. Perry said we have to let this company know by February.

Comm. Pliszka said we invited the other districts to attend the meeting on Friday. Comm. Perry said Admin. Asst. Steneri is going to record the meeting as well.

Liaison Report – Smoke Detectors:

Comm. Pliszka said he is going to call New London Fire Department because they just received a grant for smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. I am going to see what they are doing.

10. New Business: a) Renewal of Deputy Fire Marshals' MOU:

Comm. Perry said everybody has a copy. It was decided at a labor management meeting to extend the MOU to the end of the fiscal year. And then we can put an appropriate amount into next year's budget for it. It looks like it is working very well.

Comm. Pliszka said Comm. Perry's name should be on the MOU instead of the chief's. Comm. Crowley said she should put her name on it and sign it now. That way the Board is acting upon it. A new copy with Comm. Perry's name can be drafted up.

MOTION *to add Comm. Perry's name and signature to the Deputy Fire Marshals' MOU*, made by Comm. Crowley, seconded by Comm. Bouthiette. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passed 5-0.

Comm. Pliszka said all MOUs need to be signed by the chair.

Comm. Gillespie said he wanted to discuss the smoke detectors again. Is the District going to create a waiver form? Comm. Pliszka said he wants to see what New London department is going to do. Comm. Gillespie said he spoke with someone at the State and he said we have to follow the code. There has to be a smoke and CO detector on every floor and inside every bedroom.

Comm. Pliszka asked about just handing out smoke detectors. Comm. Gillespie said he is concerned about the liability of doing so. What if the detector was faulty? Comm. Perry agreed. Comm. Gillespie said that is why we need some type of waiver.

Comm. Bouthiette asked Deputy Fire Marshal Falletti to explain the Fire Marshal statute. Deputy FM Falletti said we don't have jurisdiction over one and two family homes. They are covered under the Building Dept. Code. Some fire marshals have met with apartment buildings' electricians and they went out together to install the detectors.

Comm. Bouthiette asked what about the people who can't install the detectors themselves. Comm. Gillespie said that is where the waiver form would come in.

Comm. Gillespie said the State of CT changed the code. It will probably be another six years before the code is changed again.

Comm. Pliszka said the Chief should issue a memo stating that the department will not install smoke detectors. Comm. Gillespie said we should tell people that they should be installed by a licensed electrician.

Firefighter Miarecki asked to have something in writing to show people. Comm. Bouthiette said have a copy of the code.

Captain Burnham said there was an issue with the We Care program. We handed out detectors that were already four to five years old.

Comm. Crowley asked does the State have a waiver form that they use. Comm. Gillespie said he hasn't seen one. This is something that the District would have to come up with.

Comm. Crowley asked are there any Town regulations that piggyback off of this. Comm. Gillespie said he didn't think so. The Town of Enfield is following the electrical code.

Comm. Pliszka said we need a waiver form for pumping water out of people's houses too. Comm. Gillespie said years ago that is something that we didn't pay attention to. Comm. Perry said things were a lot different back then.

Comm. Crowley asked how many pumps does the department have. Comm. Pliszka said about a dozen.

Firefighter Miarecki said he wanted to bring something up since the Commission is talking about safety. We are having issues communicating with our radios. Comm. Gillespie said we've had that issue with the mics on the Kenwood radios before. Comm. Pliszka said we have a grant coming. Firefighter Miarecki said nothing has been decided about the grant yet. This is an issue that has been going on for a while now. Comm. Gillespie said we can't have members out there with no mics. All of the other board members agreed. Comm. Pliszka said the Chief has radios in the budget in case we do not get the grant. Comm. Crowley said this is a top priority. Comm. Gillespie said this needs to be fixed now. Comm. Perry said if it is in the budget, then we should buy them now.

Firefighter Miarecki said he just wanted to bring it to the Board's attention so the situation can be rectified.

Comm. Crowley asked how many radios do we have right now. Captain Burnham said about twenty. Comm. Crowley said we need to replace the microphones. It has to get done. This is unacceptable.

Firefighter Miarecki said the new truck is coming along nicely. Captain Flanagan is doing a great job training the other members.

11. Adjourn:

MOTION to *adjourn* made by Comm. Pliszka, seconded by Comm. Perry. All in favor by ayes at 7:39 pm.