

Board of Fire Commissioners  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 7, 2026

Present: Commissioner Bemer, Commissioner Cavanaugh, Commissioner Longo,  
Commissioner Nero, and Commissioner Nursick

Absent: Commissioner Cofiell

Others: Assistant Chief David Thurz

Commissioner Longo called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Longo requested a motion to approve the April 2, 2026, meeting minutes. Commissioner Cavanaugh made a motion to accept, seconded by Commissioner Nero. Commissioner Bemer stated he would vote no based on how Item # 7 was handled. There was no further discussion. Motion passed (4-1-1).

Commissioner Longo requested a motion to approve the April 16, 2026, Special Meeting minutes. Commissioner Bemer made a motion to accept, seconded by Commissioner Nursick. There was no discussion. The motion passed (5-0-1).

**Correspondence:** None

**Chief's Report:**

Assistant Chief David Thurz reported the following on behalf of Chief Thurz:

- Chief Thurz is completing his training this month and will be attending future Commission meetings beginning next month.
- On April 9<sup>th</sup>, Chief Thurz emailed the Commissioners replies to the questions raised at last month's meeting.
  - i. Commissioner Bemer's request for a breakdown of the members who did not meet the minimum requirements will be presented at the June meeting.
  - ii. Provided feedback regarding Commissioner Nursick's questions regarding the comparison of the per diem to the point system.
  - iii. Provided clarification to Commissioner Cofiell's question regarding the \$110K in Capital Outlay.
  - iv. Advised that the Truck Committee did not have a meeting scheduled for April 2, 2026, due to the Hall of Fame dinner and Easter Plant sales.
- The stations' air compressor project is expected to begin this summer once materials are received.

- The second installment of the “Point System” payout was being processed. The total payout, excluding officer stipends, was \$163.7K+/- . The Town Manager sent an email approving a \$25K transfer from the “Point System” account to complete the flooring work at Station 2.
- Department participated in Glastonbury High School’s Career Fair.
- Department continues discussions with the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding the Putnam Bridge 20-ton weight restriction. DOT is aware of the Department’s concerns.
- The Department’s annual awards dinner was held on April 25, 2026. Several members were recognized for their years of service and educational achievements. Firefighter Edward Urbansky Jr. was recognized for 60 years of service.
- The legislative session for the year has ended. Commissioners were provided with a handout outlining House Bill 5003 and Senate Bill 1, which will impact the fire service.
- Commissioner Bemer requested clarification regarding policies for members who fail to meet the minimum annual requirements and probationary member accountability. Assistant Chief Thurz stated there is currently no formal policy in place.
- Commissioner Bemer requested an update next month regarding whether the “Point System” payout remained within budget.
- Commissioner Nursick commented on the annual awards dinner and thanked those involved with organizing the event.
- Commissioner Longo had concerns regarding members repeatedly failing to meet the minimum annual requirements, and agreed that an additional review of the policy and By-Laws may be necessary.
- Review of April’s operating expenses
- Commissioner Longo stated he thought the compressor project was starting sooner.
- Commissioner Bemer made a motion to accept the Chief’s report. Commissioner Cavanaugh seconded the motion.
- Commissioner Nursick inquired about the status of Tac 14. Commissioner Longo inquired what it cost to repair Tac 14? Commissioner Bemer noted that the truck was out of service for at least three months. Commissioner Nursick inquired if the cost could be determined sooner. Assistant Chief Thurz advised that Chief Thurz would need to get that information.
- There was no further discussion. The motion passed (5-0-1).

### **Old Business**

- a) Access to the Board of Education’s Weight Training Facility
  - b) Access to the Board of Education’s Daycare Program
- Commissioner Nursick noted that his comments for both items A and B would be the same. Commissioner Nursick went on to state that he is looking for consensus from

the other commissioners to speak with the Board of Education at an appropriate time during public comment for access to both the weight training facilities and the day care program for the members.

- Commissioner Longo noted that he asked Commissioner Nursick to gather the information. While reasonable, Commissioner Longo felt the Board of Education would ask more questions. He was concerned about potential liability issues. Commissioner Cavanaugh agreed. Commissioner Longo noted that while both have merit, he would like to revert to previous conversations about offering a dump or pool pass. Commissioner Cavanaugh agreed with Commissioner Longo's comments.
  - Commissioner Nursick agreed to revisit the dump and pool pass, which was discussed in the past, but felt there was resistance. He noted that the Commission agreed to pursue other initiatives. He stated that perhaps thresholds should be established, such as five years of service, and a dump pass should be provided instead of being provided immediately. He felt that additional recruitment and retention incentives needed to be established.
  - Commissioner Nero felt perhaps only entertaining one idea over the other might make more sense.
  - Commissioner Nursick didn't see any harm in asking for both at the same time. He appreciated Commissioner Nero's thoughts, but felt that his relationship with the Board of Education didn't put the Commission at a disadvantage in asking for both.
  - Commissioner Longo asked Commissioner Nursick to continue to gather information and report back to the Commission.
  - Commissioner Bemer agreed with Commissioner Nursick, but felt that the Board of Education would be coming back with a list of questions. He felt Commissioner Nursick should determine who the best person or group is to speak with first.
  - Commissioner Nursick felt that before he proceeded any further with items A and B, he would like to wait until a new superintendent was in place
- c) Review of Fire Marshal Search Committee
- Commissioner Longo added this to the agenda to discuss if there was anything that needed to be added to future processes.
  - Commissioner Bemer hoped there would have been a follow-up from the Town Manager as to how the process went. He noted that some commissioners wanted to sit down afterwards with the Town Manager to discuss the process.
  - Commissioner Longo noted that members did want to meet with the Town Manager, which Commissioner Bemer clarified was just on the interview process only.
  - Commissioner Bemer would prefer to meet with him. Neither Commissioner Nero nor Commissioner Cavanaugh felt a meeting was necessary. Commissioner Nero felt the information provided was appropriate.
  - Commissioner Bemer noted there were 13 candidates from what was conveyed, six didn't meet the requirements, with seven candidates remaining. The Town Manager

and Human Resources Director narrowed it down to three candidates. He questioned why, if there were seven qualified, what was the second part of the process to disqualify those four individuals? Commissioner Bemer felt that information should have been shared with the Commission.

- Commissioner Cavanaugh noted that the process is probably different from what was done in the past.
- Commissioner Nero stated it was a learning curve.
- Commissioner Nursick thanked Commissioners Bemer and Nero for serving on the hiring committee.

d) Lawn Signs

- Commissioner Longo reminded members to begin distributing recruitment lawn signs from last year.
- Commissioner Cavanaugh noted that some of the signs are back out.

**New Business:**

- a) None

**Committee Report:**

a) Truck Committee

- Commissioner Longo reported that the vendor presentations were completed and the committee would next review scoring and pricing proposals before bringing recommendations back to the Commission.
- Commissioner Cavanaugh asked for a status update, which Assistant Chief Thurz stated the final proposal was expected by May 11, 2026, after which the committee will meet to continue the review process.
- Commissioner Bemer asked why it has taken six months to get to this point. Assistant Chief Thurz could not provide an answer, since he is not part of the process.
- Commissioner Longo understood Commissioner Bemer's point, but it can be a time-consuming process.
- Commissioner Nursick commented that he attended one of the truck committee meetings and felt it was great to see how everyone was engaged.

**Adjournment:**

Commissioner Cavanaugh made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bemer. The motion passed (5-0-1).

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM. The next regular meeting will be held on June 4, 2026, at Company 1, 2825 Main Street, at 6:30 PM.

Deborah M. Heald

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Recording Secretary

- c: Fire Commission (6)
- Fire Chiefs (4)
- Fire Captains (4)
- Jonathan Luiz, Town Manager
- Michael Giantonio, Acting Fire Marshal
- Gina Consiglio, Purchasing Agent