

NOANK FIRE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 – 2026

The Noank Fire District Executive Committee met in the Fire District building each month during 2025-2026 fiscal year. Prior to each meeting, bills against the District, having been collected and sorted by the District Clerk, were examined by the Executive Committee and, if found correct, approved to be paid. The Executive Committee also administers the Noank Water Company and those bills were processed in the same manner.

During the monthly meetings, the Executive Committee receives and reviews reports from the Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, NFD Treasurer, Water Company Superintendent, and Zoning Enforcement Officer or their deputies.

TRASH COLLECTION

The Noank residential trash collection program continues to successfully operate on a “one charge per household per year” basis and participation in this program ensures that the Noank Fire District can continue offering these services. CWPM remains our contracted trash collection provider and our Clerk has reported very few residents’ concerns or complaints. Our current agreement term with CWPM expires at the end of June 2029.

NOANK FIRE HOUSE

During the past year, the Noank Fire District Clerk maintained regular hours at the Firehouse twice a week and the ability to virtually access the computer located at the firehouse remains integral to keeping operations running outside of regular hours. Additionally, the Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) holds office hours on Tuesday evenings.

Noank continues to provide staffing of an EMT/Firefighter in the firehouse 7 days a week from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. This coverage ensures the rapid response to any emergency situation in the Noank Fire District during daytime work hours when other volunteers may not be readily available. It is Chief Michael Gale and other personnel that provide this coverage.

Additionally, the Executive Committee is pleased to entertain civic and private group requests for use of the meeting and community rooms at the Noank Firehouse. In the few cases where minimal donations are received for use of the Firehouse, those funds are passed on to other civic groups such as our Volunteer

Fire Company or Noank Cemetery Association. With the shuttering of Carsons, the Noank Fire House has recently served as a gathering place for residents to share conversation, camaraderie, and coffee. This takes place downstairs on Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. and all are welcome. Coffee is provided along with any snacks generous attendees might bring.

NOANK FIRE DEPARTMENT

This past year a public meeting was held for the purpose of voting on the purchase of a new fire truck. The cost of this purchase had been budgeted for and purposefully accumulated over multiple years, thus there was no need for the fire district to secure additional outside funding. The purchase was approved and the truck has since been delivered and put into service. The addition of this new equipment has enhanced the safety of all residents of Noank as well as surrounding towns.

Chief Gale continues to do an outstanding job and we are grateful for his continued commitment and leadership in this role. The Committee would also like to recognize the men and women volunteers who give of their time and professional expertise to ensure our citizens are kept safe and aided in time of need.

Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Chief Charles Chaffee – who was recently recognized for his 40 years of service to the Noank Fire Marshals Office - continues his diligent efforts to inspect Commercial and residential properties that fall under his jurisdiction. These efforts help to safeguard the safety of workers, patrons, and residents.

ZONING

While it is sometimes difficult to foresee what issues are on the horizon, expenses related to zoning issues may occur and the Executive Committee makes every effort to anticipate and manage costs accordingly, so no other Fire District services are impacted.

NOANK PARK COMMITTEE

The Noank Park Committee continues to maintain and improve various aspects of our small community park. The Executive Committee would like to thank those on the Park Committee and other residents and volunteers that continue to make Noank Park a village asset.

COMMUNICATIONS

We continue to encourage residents to utilize the Noank Fire District website (noankfiredistrict.com) as their first stop for information regarding announcements, regulations, the Water Company, Fire Department and Zoning. Additionally, the Clerk sends regular email communications and if you are not on the mailing list, please submit your email address to the Clerk so you can receive future direct communications.

WATER COMPANY

Water Company Superintendent, Ted Rathjen, along with Assistant Superintendent Frank Lewis and Chuck Toal, have worked relentlessly to ensure Noank's water supply system is functioning efficiently and safely. Their work in all weather conditions often goes unnoticed by many, but their efforts are genuinely appreciated by all our residents who rely on them daily. In the coming years, the Water Company will be overseeing installation of new water mains in town and we appreciate neighbors' cooperation and patience as this necessary work takes place.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The Noank Memorial Day Parade is organized by a group of dedicated residents, making certain this long-held tradition remains a part of our close-knit community. Our sincere gratitude is extended to those volunteers. We would like to remind residents that continuation of the parade relies partly on donations and it is never too early to make a contribution to that end.

The Noank Fire District Executive Committee remains grateful to all who volunteer their time and talents to the Noank Fire District. Community groups such as the Noank Historical Society, Noank Cemetery Association, and the Park Committee continue to make Noank a wonderful community in which to live. The Executive Committee would like to remind residents to let us know should you have a desire to volunteer your services to any of the various boards and committees.

Respectfully submitted.

Noank Fire District Executive Committee

Michael Noel, Katherine Rathbun, and David Steel

May 19, 2026