

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
NOANK FIRE DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, May 11, 2021

Date: May 11, 2021
Held VIA Zoom
Time: 7:00 pm

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Acting Chairman Michael Noel
Committee members present: Katherine Rathbun, Michael Noel
Others present: Russ Fowler (Water Superintendent), Charlie Chaffee (Fire Marshal),
David Steel (Fire Chief), Frank Lewis (Assistant Water Superintendent), Cindy Steel
(Treasurer), Nancy Gilmore (Clerk)

II. Public Comments

Andrew Giblin, 18 Williams Street, requested the Executive Committee investigate the public access at 0 Riverview Ave. Boulders have been placed in front of a parking lot which has historically been used by the public. He wants to know what part of that area is public and if there have been any property changes in the area. The Town of Groton is currently looking into the delineation between the public area and private area, but he is requesting the Noank Fire District become involved. If public access is restored, he would like the Noank Fire District request some signage. Mike Noel and Katherine Rathbun agreed to support signs, but said they have no influence on the situation. The Noank Fire District will send a letter to John Burt asking that the district be kept informed regarding negotiations between the Town of Groton and the lawyer for the property owner.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion (Rathbun/Noel) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting April 13, 2021 as presented passed. A motion (Rathbun/Noel) to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2021 special meeting as presented passed.

IV. Reports of District Officials

David Steel reported for the Fire Department. They had 24 Medical calls and 7 other calls in April. All extinguishers have had their annual inspection and maintenance completed by Shipman's.

He is looking at getting the AFFF fire fighting foam replaced. The foam everyone has been using has been found to contain pfas which is harmful to the environment. State of CT is working on getting a contractor to pick up and dispose of the foam that we currently have. We need to get it replaced and Shipman's does have a replacement. It is around \$220 for a 5 gallon container. We currently have 2 five gallon containers and 35 gallon in a tank on the engine.

Silktown roofing put down some grass seed and hay on the lawn on the North side of firehouse that they used for a laydown area. Dave Blacker had told Steel that it needed a load of topsoil as well as the seed and hay. Kevin Blacker will take a

look at it to see if they will be able to mow it. Dave Blacker estimates it will cost \$900 for a load of topsoil.

Steel is ordering fire gear and uniforms for new fire department members.

Charlie Chaffee gave the Fire Marshal Report. All monthly testing was performed. He attended a career development course. He issued a burning permit for 85 Elm Street under stipulation the permittee cannot burn while the fire hazard is at its current state. Inspections were performed at 937 Groton Long Point Road, 137 Fishtown Road, 11 Ward Ave, 135 Pearl Street.

Russ Fowler reported for the Water Company. There were 14 CBYD calls in April. Noank Shipyard is squared away on the curb box issue. He has not heard back from the group regarding the shellfish washing in the village. The changes for the hydrant at Crosswinds will have to wait a while due to the unavailability of M. L. Lyon. Russ has attended a couple of meetings for the Water Utilities Commission. He would like to purchase a new application for better leak detection. He will need a more updated phone in order to use it. Hydrotech will begin hydrant painting on May 17. Backflow testing will start on 5/23. It will take a couple of days. Mosher Avenue Bridge is currently quiet. He has ordered flags for Memorial Day. There will be a small service at the bottom of Brook Street at 9AM on Memorial Day. There is no parade.

The ZEO issued 20 permits in April.

Cindy Steel gave the Treasurer's report. She has submitted her State Auditor's report.

V. Communications

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

- A date for the annual meeting was discussed. A question was raised whether Executive Order 7HH was still in effect ensued. That order enabled Executive Committees to pass a budget without a public meeting. Mike Noel said he could not find where it had been rescinded. Nancy Gilmore will contact the Noank Fire District Attorney to verify it is still in effect. A date for the annual meeting was set for June 22 with a rain date of 6/23 in the Noank Park at 7PM. If our attorney determines the public must vote on the budget the date will need to be moved back to May.
- The budget from the 4/22 meeting was revisited. It was decided that the 4/22 budget was not enough to cover expenses from 7/2021 – 6/2022. The final proposed budget is \$538,942 requiring a mill rate of 1.68.

VIII. Other Business

- Mike Noel attended a Groton Long Point Bridge Meeting. There will be a sidewalk on the south side. Otherwise, there was not much to report.

- A 10 year contract with Groton Utilities is ready to be signed.
- IX. Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Gilmore
Noank Fire District Clerk