

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**NOANK FIRE DISTRICT**  
**10 WARD AVENUE**

Date: 05/13/2025

**I. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Michael Noel.  
Committee members present: Michael Noel, David Steel, Katherine Rathbun  
Others present: Michael Gale (Fire Chief), Ted Rathjen (Water Company Superintendent), Charles Chaffee (Fire Marshal), Cindy Steel (Treasurer), Frank Lewis (Water Company), Nancy Gilmore (NFD Clerk)

**II. Public Comments**

Paul Bates asked the Executive Committee to object to the TOG regarding the new town dock parking planned. He stated the grass which will be eliminated is used by people visiting the beach.

It was reported that 85% of the residents are interested in the project to provide water on Fishtown Lane. They are looking for a cost estimate. Kevin Blacker asked whether the water lines leading to Mystic River Homes will be replaced. David Steel said the new plan will replace water lines and loop Crosswinds to Fishtown Road.

**III. A motion (KR/DS) to approve minutes of regular meeting 04/08/2025 as presented and the special meeting of 04/17/2025 as presented passed.**

**IV. Reports by District Officials**

Chief Gale reported for the Fire Department. In April there were 0 fire calls, 17 EMS calls, 1 Hazmat call and 12 Other calls totaling 30 calls. On April 5, Gale attended an all-day seminar on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention at the Mystic Hilton. On April 8, G41 was sent to Shipman's for new alternator belts. On April 10, the Department provided a cover company to OMFd while they operated at a structure fire. On April 11, the Department held the Annual Banquet. On April 17, the G41 rear tires were replaced. On April 17, Gale presented his proposed budget to the Executive Committee. On April 23, Noank Fire Department hosted the Groton Fire Officer monthly meeting. On April 24, the Department provided a cover company to PBFD while they operated at a structure fire. On April 26, Gale attended the Old Mystic Fire Department Banquet at the Mystic Hilton. On April 28, G46 was towed to Whaling City for repairs. It needed a new fuel pump. On April 28 and 29, Gale assisted Ted Rathjen at the water main break on Elm Street. The Department arranged for water drop tanks to be left at 201 & 205 Elm Street. Over 3,000 gallons of water were provided by the Gales Ferry Fire Department.

Fire Marshal Chaffee reported for the Fire Marshal's office. The monthly inspections at the firehouse were performed. Inspections were performed at 5 Center Street and 117 Pearl Street. Chaffee attended the NLCFCA meeting in Lyme, the FFO meeting in Noank and OEDM Eastern CT Fire School. Parking at

Main and Pearl Streets is an ongoing issue. Cars parking on the left side are interfering with emergency vehicle access from Main Street. Chaffee completed his annual budget request. Chaffee reported that 42 Church Street and 80 Elm Street are overdue for inspection.

There were 9 ZEO permits issued in April.

Ted Rathjen read the report for the Water Company. There were 10 CBYD calls in April. Rathjen met with the circuit rider to discuss NWC with Tap card updaters. Rathjen provided an ESRI system update. All construction details, main locations, Fire Hydrant location and 50% of their Tap Cards have been uploaded to the new system. Chuck Toal and Rathjen have had several meetings with Tighe & Bond. NWC still has nearly 300 Tap Cards to update. NWC met with the engineering firm regarding updating the water system along Main Street in conjunction with the road update. They provided NWC the proposed design and updated site plan for Karl Acimovic to begin designing and upgrading the NWC system. Rathjen provided an update on the Elm Street Culvert project. During the final phase of installation and activating the bypass valve, 3 lengths of AC pipe separated causing a catastrophic failure resulting in a 27 hour shut down of the northern section of the NWC system. Mystic River Homes, the most vulnerable population, suffered from no water and sanitation. The State engineer agreed the problem was a result of no thrust block designed or installed. NWC design was changed by Richards Corporation and approved by the State. Rathjen recommends NFD and NWC meet to discuss how to prevent this situation in the future.

Michael Noel will send a letter to the Little Gull Association with preliminary cost estimates for the association to determine if they want to proceed. The Elm Street culvert project will require a temporary main below the ground. Alternating lights will be set up on Elm Street. The project is scheduled to be done by October 1.

Cindy Steel provided the Treasurers Reports. The stipend from Mumford Cove has not been received.

**V. Communications**

**VI. Old Business**

The agenda of the Annual Meeting will be reordered to have all voting for committee membership done at the beginning of the meeting, not the end. This is to avoid cold and darkness.

**VII. New Business**

**VIII. Other Business**

**VIII. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn (Steel/Rathbun) passed at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy Gilmore  
Noank Fire District Clerk