

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

Date: 10/14/2025

I. Call to order

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

II. Public Comments

Jennifer King asked about adding the minutes to the agenda notification. Going forward they will be distributed with the agenda and labeled as DRAFT. She asked about the material deficiency in the Audit Report. She was told it was because the committee members are not bonded.

- III.** A motion (DS/KR) to approve the September 9, 2025 meeting minutes as amended passed.

IV. Reports by District Officials

Michael Gale reported for the Fire Department. There were 0 Fire calls, 15 EMS calls, 1 Hazmat Call, and 16 Other calls totaling 32 calls. On September 6, the Fire Department held a fire extinguisher and smoke detector turn in event. The department also cleaned the station. On September 8, 7 members of the Department started a Firefighter 1 class being held at Groton Long Point. On September 15, all the Department's hose, ladders, and pumps were tested. G41 pump failed and is being scheduled for a retest. On September 17, the Department responded as Cover Company to the Poquonnock Bridge Fire Department. On September 22, the station back flow preventor was serviced and tested. No issues were found. On September 24 Gale attended the Groton Fire Officer meeting at Mystic River Ambulance. On September 25, Gale attended the CT EMS Council Award Ceremony at Mohegan Sun. LT Mat Bahoras received the EMT of the Year Award. Mat was nominated by four separate Departments. The R1 license has been renewed.

Chaffee reported for the Fire Marshal. All systems were tested. Inspections were performed at 201 Elm Street (47 Apartments), 50 Church Street (3 Apartments), 58-62 High Street (3 Apartments), 17 Riverview, 19 Pearl Street, Latham Chester Store(1 Apartment), and Noank Historical Museum. A fire investigation was performed at 68 Front Street. An eviction took place at Main Block 52B. Chaffee will follow up with a violation notice. Chaffee attended NLCFCA, State Convention Meeting West Haven, and EMS/Fire Expo Uncasville.

Bill Mulholland gave the ZEO Report. He is investigating short term rentals at 16 Prospect Hill Road and Little Gull Lane. Business has been a little slow.

Ted Rathjen reported for the Water Company. 65 homes were added to ESRI during September. There were 8 CBYD calls in September. Black topping on the culvert is slated to start October 15. Mike Noel asked about the seasonal shutoffs. Rathjen suggested it is time to look to the future for planning. He is sure that the Water Company will need more money. The water budget meeting will be held in late November or early December.

Cindy Steel presented the Treasurer's Report. Zoning fees were discussed. More research will be done. Cindy stated the committee should look at raising the fees or having the applicant pay the fee.

V. Communications

VI. Old Business

The issue of a mail slot was again discussed. A motion (KR/DS) to order one passed. The clerk will order the one David Steel found online.

VII. New Business

Chief Gale presented the case for buying a new fire engine. It is too late to apply for a grant to help with the purchase this year. This truck would replace the G41 which is over 30 years old. The old engine needs the pump valve to be replaced. Gale recommends purchasing a truck which will hold 1,000 gallons. The 1,000 gallon one will cost \$35,000 more than the 750 gallon one. The price quoted for the 1,000 one is \$771,156.43. Gale said the plan would be to sell the old fire engine. It was decided to consult with our lawyer about a special meeting to have the public vote on the expenditure even though the money already exists in a fire truck fund which was started in 1998. A special meeting with the public will be set up within the next two weeks.

VIII. Other Business

Katherine Rathbun asked if we could use grant money for Main Street. It will continue to be investigated.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn (Rathbun/Steel) passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Gilmore
Noank Fire District Clerk