

# May 13<sup>th</sup> 2026 Meeting Minutes

## Overview

The meeting covered several key points: approval of April bills and minutes, Chief Matt Orsini's report on April's 27 calls, including a fatal incident on April 21, and the need for additional funding to cover an extra day of operations, estimated at \$11,700. The board discussed potential funding sources, including reserves and reallocating underspent budget categories. They also considered bylaw changes to allow non-members to participate in duty crews and the establishment of a 5-10 year strategic plan committee. Additionally, the board approved a state contract for SCBA air packs and authorized summer hours for the fire prevention officer.

All five commissioners in attendance along with DFS Wesolowski, Chief Orsini and Deputy Chief DiPaolo.

## Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes and Bills

- President William Wesolowski read open public meeting statement and confirms that written notice was posted on the bulletin board and the official website. Salute to the flag and moment of silence held.
- President Wesolowski called for approval of minutes, confirms review of the April 8 meeting minutes, with no additions or correction, motion by Gifford, second by Clark. Passed 5-0
- William J Wesolowski calls for a motion (Gifford) to approve the April bills, which is seconded (Clark) and carried unanimously.

## Chief's Report: Call Volume and Staffing Issues

- Chief Orsini reports a total of 27 calls for April, including a fatal incident on April 21st.
- He discusses the need for additional funding to cover an extra day of operations, estimating the cost at \$11,700.
- Chief Orsini highlights issues with call volume, particularly on nights and weekends, and the need for more coverage.
- He mentions the purchase of the thermal imager is complete and the need for early morning coverage to address response times.

## Discussion on Funding and Budget Adjustments

- William J Wesolowski and Brian Wesolowski discuss potential funding sources, including reserves and emergency appropriations.
- Brian suggests moving funds from underspent categories like utilities and maintenance.
- Chief Grant emphasizes the need for more coverage and the challenges faced by the Chief in staffing.

- Commissioner Gifford notes that the \$11,700 extra day cost will decrease if shifts are not fully filled.

## **Bylaw Changes and Duty Crew Participation**

- Chief Orsini discusses proposed bylaw changes to allow non-members to participate in duty crews.
- President William J Wesolowski raises concerns about the legality of paying non-members differently from members.
- Chief Orsini explains the rationale behind the different rates, comparing it to paying new employees less than senior employees.
- The board agrees to proceed with the duty crew extra day addition on motion by Grant, second by Gifford and passed unanimously.

## **Exploring Grant Opportunities and Summer Hours**

- Chief Grant mentions the possibility of using a FEMA grant for duty crew funding.
- Brian Wesolowski suggests reaching out to the grant writer for more information.
- The board approves the extra day of operations and the summer hours for the fire prevention officer.
- Chief Matt Orsini requests permission to experiment with 10-hour days for better coverage during the day.

## **Recruitment and Retention Update**

- Deputy DiPaolo reports the acceptance of two new members, with one already attending drills.
- The board discusses the need for a strategic plan to address future staffing and equipment needs.
- Commissioner Gifford suggests assembling a committee to create a 5-10 year plan.
- The board agrees to form a committee to gather and analyze data to inform future planning.

## **Final Approval of Resolutions and Meeting Adjournment**

- The board approves resolution 2026-11 regarding the district border realignment on motion by Gifford, second by Grant and passed by unanimous roll call vote.
- They also approve resolution 2026-12 for the state contract for SCBA air pack purchase on motion by Gifford, second by Clark and passed by unanimous roll call vote.
- The board discusses and approves the summer hours for the fire prevention office.
- The meeting is adjourned with no further public comments or issues raised. Next meeting to be held June 10, 2026.