BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, April 7, 2026
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Room 1
Monthly Meeting

Commissioners present: Tim Reynolds, John Cotter, Craig Mansfield (remote)
Guests Present: Todd Gelston

1. **Called to order** at 5:16 pm by Tim Reynolds and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Acceptance of Minutes**:
   a. Motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting on 03/03/26 as presented, made by John Cotter, seconded by Tim Reynolds. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Bill Approvals:
   a. Bills to be paid were reviewed and discussed. Motion to approve the invoices as presented and discussed by Craig Mansfield, seconded by Tim Reynolds. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Budget Recap:
   a. John Cotter provided a budget recap noting the departments to-date spending. To date for the 2025-26 budget year started with $734,884 and to date we have spent $546,952.78 leaving us a remaining amount of $187,91.22. This is a total of 75% spend to date. Ongoing increase in vehicle repairs (over $120K).

5. Old Business:
   a. First MCI/School planning meeting held. Additional meetings scheduled. Focus on Communications and access/Staging at first meeting.

6. Selectman's Report:
   a. Todd Gelston reported that the budget public hearing was tonight. Board of Finance is pushing for 0%, which means town needs to cut $370K.
   b. Ambulance / Fire Department agreement is still a work in process with another working session scheduled.
   c. Town working on paving plan including looking at stormwater drainage.
   d. Speeding continues to be an issue around town. Speed limit portable signs out and police continue to do enforcement.
   e. Ongoing progress with East Haddam redevelopment agency work and Moodus is still moving forward.
   f. July 11th is a 250-anniversary reenactment of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

7. Visitors Participation:
   a. None

8. Reports:
   a. Medical Division Report: See below

b. Career Staff Report: No report
c. Marine Division Report: No report.
d. Fire Marshal's Report: See below
e. Fire Police Division Report: No report
f. Junior Division Report: See below
g. Recruitment Division Report: No report
h. Public Relations Report: No report
i. Special Events Report: No report
j. Fire Chief's Report: No report

9. <u>Building & Equipment Reports:</u>

a. Building Report:
   - Company 3 being cleaned up. Parking lots to be paved and an additional sump pump to be installed in basement. Grass to be planted. Block wall repaired.
   - Issues with phones at Company #2 and Company #1. Don Angersola working with Matt Hall to repair.
   - Craig Mansfield provided the group with an update on the firehouse project. Downes Construction was selected as a Construction Manager. Committee will meet Thursday night and is preparing for the public hearing on May 27th. Construction documents are complete at 95%. Environmental study scheduled for April 15th.

b. Fire Equipment and Maintenance Report: No report
c. Radio Equipment Report: No real updates on Radios. Plan is to have work done this upcoming month.

10. <u>Correspondence:</u>

a. None

11. <u>New Business:</u>

a. None

12. <u>Adjournment:</u>

a. Motion to adjourn at 5:44pm made by John Cotter, second by Craig Mansfield. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

Craig Mansfield
Secretary
04/27/2026

REPORTS

Medical Division Report: Submitted by Melanie Kolek

- **Medical Training:** The March 18th pediatric cardiac arrest training was well received based on feedback.
- **Upcoming Training:** EpiPen check and inject training is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22. All participants receive required CME credit.
- **EMT Class:** I've been checking in regularly with Bob and participants, and class is progressing well.
- **Future Training:** "Scene size-up 101" training for medical scenarios will be planned for sometime this summer/fall after the EMT class concludes.
- **TenderCareID:** QR code "File of Life" is being researched to provide to town citizens. A meeting with Mr. Mansfield will be scheduled to evaluate feasibility and potential donation support from the Haslam Memorial Foundation.
- **EHAA Working Group:** Awaiting EHAA's decision on next steps for future of town ambulance services.
- **New SOP as to following for R-1 responses:**
  - **Mutual Aid calls:** Only one Fire Department apparatus will respond for mutual aid (out of town) R-1 calls.
  - **Remaining on scene:** Fire Department crews will remain on scene until the ambulance leaves the scene with a signed patient refusal or with the patient for transport to the hospital.
  - **Fire Department Personnel who are students in EMT/EMR classes responding to medical calls:**
    - Considered "observer only" meaning no patient contact except for lift assists
    - Must ride on an apparatus from one of the firehouses (no POV)
    - No driving fire apparatus
    - No driving medic vehicle
    - Must have at least one medically-certified personnel on scene
    - Class participants may complete required course "patient contact" hours, but will revert to these rules afterward

Career Staff Report: No report submitted

- No Report

Marine Report: No report submitted

- Tim Reynolds thanked everyone for the great response to the drowning at Lake Hayward.

Fire Marshal: Report submitted.

- Banner lodge is still a work in progress and moving forward.
- New Greek restaurant going into the old DaVinci
- Burn and blasting permits continue to be issued
- May 12th Flagger training 8-12pm at the Municipal Office Complex.

Junior Division Report: Report Submitted

- Juniors are doing a great job and completing trainings at the fire academy
- Will continue recruitment from High School

Recruitment Division Report: No report submitted

Public Relations Report: No report submitted
- Lots of articles in paper. Great PR.

Special Events Report: No report submitted.
- Great Easter Egg Hunt at the airport. Thanks to the Walkers for all the work.

Fire Chief's Report: No Report Submitted