

Special Meeting of the
Board of TFD Fire Commissioners

DRAFT -- Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2020
Thompsonville Fire Station, 35 N. Main Street, Enfield, CT

1. Call to Order: by Comm. DuFour at 6:00 pm.

2. Roll Call: present were Comm. DuFour, Comm. Perry, Comm. Pliszka, and Comm. Dodd. Absent was Comm. Reidy. Also present was Chief Deskis.

3. Resignation of Commissioner:

Comm. DuFour said he received the following email from Comm. Reidy last Thursday: “With other obligations taking precedence over my position of Commissioner with the TFD I render my resignation effective immediately”.

MOTION to accept the resignation from Comm. Reidy made by Comm. DuFour, seconded by Comm. Perry. Discussion: Comm. Perry said our attorney said the Board can accept the resignation as long as the resignation is dated. Comm. DuFour said Chief Deskis printed out the email and he stamped it with the date it was received. I responded to her by asking her to return any District property. Comm. Perry asked what property does she have. Comm. DuFour said an iPad and a pager. She can keep the badge. Roll Call- Motion passed 4-0.

4. Discussion of Commissioner Appointment:

Comm. DuFour said according to the Charter, the Board has 30 days to appoint someone to fill the vacancy. It does state, we need to have someone of the minority party. Comm. Dodd asked where do we stand right now. Comm. DuFour said he is an Independent and Comm. Perry is a Democrat. Comm. Dodd said she and Comm. Pliszka are Republicans. So, the person appointed has to be an Independent or a Democrat? Comm. Perry said not necessarily. Comm. DuFour is leaving in May. Whoever we appoint is going to have to run again. Comm. DuFour said technically that person does not have to run again. The Charter says the appointed person can only serve as Commissioner until the next annual meeting. The term would be from now until May. Comm. Perry said I mean in order for the appointment Commissioner to stay on, that person would have to run again.

Comm. Dodd asked does the Charter state it has to be a minority appointment. What if we can't find anybody? Comm. DuFour said the Charter says upon the resignation or the death of a Commissioner, the Board must fill the vacancy by appointment within 30 days. Unless otherwise provided by law, any elected or appointed Commissioner resigning from office must deliver a written notice of resignation to the District office. Resignations will become effective on the date specified in the notice or, if no date is specified, upon the date received and stamped at the District office. This is what we did. The vacant seat must be filled in accordance with the minority representation statutes. The person filling any position created by a vacancy will serve until the date of the next Annual Meeting, at which time an election must be held to complete the remainder of the term. Comm. Perry asked does the Charter have an explanation of what the minority statutes say. Comm. Pliszka said no. Comm. DuFour said all candidacy requirements must be adhered to as described under Section 6.3, Electing Commissioners. Comm. Dodd asked Comm. DuFour to repeat the section about the minority. Comm. Perry said that is the statutes of the State of Connecticut. I would like to know what they say. Comm. DuFour said he can contact Atty. Landolina regarding the statutes.

Comm. Dodd looked up CGS 9-167a on a laptop. Comm. Dodd said the statute says the provisions of this section shall not apply to any such board, commission, committee, or body whose members are elected wholly or partially on the basis of geographical division of the State or political subdivision. Comm. Perry said I would say since our board members are geographically elected, this does not apply. Comm. DuFour said that statute also says the maximum from one party with 5 members is 4. Comm. Perry said we are set. Comm. Dodd said we can appoint anybody then. Comm. Perry said the Board doesn't have anyone yet but we don't have to worry about their political party. Should we put an announcement on our website for about 2 weeks. Comm. Pliszka said we only have 30 days. Comm. Perry said so we can run it for a week. Comm. Dodd asked what if nobody is interested. Comm. Perry said we would have to do it again. Comm. DuFour said we can't force anybody to become a Commissioner. Comm. DuFour said Kellie can modify the Commissioner's application form and post it to the website. Comm. Dodd asked do we have to wait the 30 days. Comm. Perry said no. The Board can review the submitted forms. Comm. DuFour said there is no need to conduct interviews since it is an appointment. To error on the side of caution, I am going to run this by Atty. Landolina.

5. Approval of Invoices/Bills:

Commissioners reviewed, discussed and approved checks for invoices/bills.

6. 2020-2021 FY Budget Workshop:

The Commission and Chief Deskis discussed salaries, health and worker's compensation insurance, employees' clothing allowance, the Grand List, revenues, heart and hypertension payments, station vehicle expenses, station expenses, training, breathing apparatus and maintenance, new hire expenses, tax collector, payroll, communication center, and hydrant fees, pension contribution, capital expenditures, and building and apparatus fund

7. Adjourn:

MOTION to adjourn made by Comm. Pliszka, seconded by Comm. DuFour. All in favor by ayes at 7:29 pm.