

Public Hearing of the  
Board of TFD Fire Commissioners

**DRAFT** -- Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2022

Thompsonville Fire Station, 35 N. Main Street, Enfield, CT

**1. Call to Order:** by Comm. Perry at 7:00 pm.

**2. Roll Call:** present were Comm. Perry, Comm. Pliszka, Comm. Bouthiette, and Comm. Gillespie. Absent was Comm. Dodd. Also present were Chief Deskis (via telephone) and Department Secretary Steneri.

Comm. Perry said there is no one here to present the apparatus purchase to. I would like to move it down the agenda and discuss it later.

**MOTION to move agenda item # 3 to agenda item #5** made by Comm. Perry, seconded by Comm. Bouthiette. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passed 4-0.

**3. Public Comments regarding Proposed 2022 – 2023 Fiscal Year Budget:**

None.

**4. Commission Discussion and Possible Action of Proposed 2022 – 2023 Fiscal Year Budget:**

Comm. Perry asked do any of the members of the department have any questions about the budget?

Comm. Pliszka said this is a darn good budget that we put together. We lowered the mill rate. Comm. Perry said I think it is great.

Comm. Perry asked how long do we have to keep the meeting open. Dept. Secy. Steneri said at least five minutes.

**5. Presentation of New Apparatus Purchase:**

Comm. Perry said there are rumblings about the Town and what they are going to do. If the departments start proceeding with consolidation, then the Town will keep collecting our taxes. We are all concerned if it is wise to move forward.

Comm. Pliszka said my biggest concern is that the Town is not going to collect taxes for us. Comm. Perry said it's a gamble right now.

Comm. Bouthiette said I agree with that. But if the Town takes our department over, it has to take on our debt. Comm. Perry said I am more concerned about the Town working something out for the pension and our members than paying for a truck. Comm. Bouthiette said I agree one hundred percent. Comm. Perry said I don't know where to go from here. The truck still can be included in the budget. If it gets voted down, then it gets voted down.

Chief Deskis said we are going to have to get a truck eventually. It's fine if the voters think it's a good idea to buy one now. The truck payment is going to be there even if things with our tax collection changes. It is going to be harder to make salary.

Comm. Perry asked do we have to buy a truck if the voters approve it. Chief Deskis said I'm not sure what the time frame is if its approved. Does it have to be done in that budget year? Can we push it off another year? Comm. Perry said we would have to re-vote on it. We could say that we were being fiscally responsible not buying a truck at that time. I feel better about moving forward with it. We just need to make sure that we have fifteen people at the meeting.

Comm. Perry said we need the truck. If it's approved, we don't have to run out and buy it. Chief Deskis said there may be a recession this summer. That might work in our favor. Is the Town really going to do what they say they are going to do? If the Town does consolidate, then it will have a new apparatus. There have been rumors that our department is looking for a new truck. Our truck has almost 100,000 miles on it. Other departments' trucks have less. We need that truck. Comm. Perry said there are safety issues.

Comm. Pliszka asked how much longer can the Squad last. Chief Deskis said I'm not sure. That is why the trucks are rotated every month. Comm. Bouthiette said a lot of cities use their old trucks as backup. Comm. Pliszka said I am concerned about what happens if we need another truck in a couple of years. Then we are going to have to take another loan to pay for that one. There should have been a rotation. Comm. Bouthiette said the department didn't do what it was supposed to do. The Squad and Engine were purchased and in a few years buy another truck. The trucks were supposed to be rotated and they weren't. Chief Deskis said that is why I added a grant writer to the budget. We would be in a good position to get a grant for apparatus. If we don't get it, then we will keep budgeting for the grant writer. We are going to have to buy one now and then replace another truck in five years.

Comm. Pliszka asked will the Squad last two more years. Chief Deskis said it is possible if the trucks are rotated. We just don't really know. Comm. Bouthiette said the new truck will be a backup. Comm. Pliszka said the Engine should be the backup.

Comm. Perry said the Board has come to a decision that we are going to move forward with it and see what happens. Chief Deskis said let the voters decide. If they say no, then we will have to come up with another plan of action. We will keep saving money for it.

**5. Adjourn:**

**MOTION to adjourn** made by Comm. Perry, seconded by Comm. Bouthiette. All in favor by ayes at 7:15 pm.