

**CITY OF NASHUA  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021**

**THE MEETING CAME TO ORDER AT 17:33 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kevin Burgess  
Paul Garant  
Gary Lambert  
Ken Marquis  
Anthony Patti

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Chief Brian D. Rhodes (17:40)  
Assistant Chief Steve M. Buxton

**STAFF NOT PRESENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Deputy Fire Chief James Kirk  
Captain Telgen  
Captain Wholey  
Local 789 President Thomas Wholey  
Firefighter Michael McGovern  
Members of Local 789

All stood as Commissioner Lambert lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

A Moment of Silence was held for all those lost in the fire service.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (RE: NFR AGENDA ITEMS)**

N/A

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Approval of Minutes**

**February 3, 2021 Regular Meeting**

**21 30**

**Motion** by Commissioner Marquis to accept as presented the meeting minutes and place on file  
Seconded by Commissioner Patti

Vote: passed 5-yes

**Motion** by Commissioner Marquis to accept as presented the meeting minutes and place on file  
Seconded by Commissioner Patti  
Vote: passed 5-yes

**Communication(s):**

**From: Citizen**

**21 32**

**Re: Thank you to NFR at Vaccination Clinic**

**Motion** by Commissioner Marquis to accept as presented the Citizen of Nashua Thank You and place on file  
Seconded by Commissioner Patti  
Vote: passed 5-yes

**Departmental Detail Expenditures Report**

**21 33**

**Motion** by Commissioner Marquis to accept as presented the Departmental Detail Expenditures Report and place on file  
Seconded by Commissioner Patti  
Vote: passed 5-yes

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Staff Reports**

**A. Chief Rhodes**

**21 34 A**

**Motion** by Commissioner Marquis to accept Chief Rhodes' report as presented and place on file  
Seconded by Commissioner Lambert  
Vote: passed 5-yes

**B. Assistant Chief Buxton**

**21 34 B**

**Motion** by Commissioner Marquis to accept Assistant Chief Buxton's report as presented and place on file  
Seconded by Commissioner Patti  
Vote: passed 5-yes

## Discussions

Local 789

21 35

President Wholey had a few things to report.

He brought forth a grievance for Phillip MacCallum that needed to go to the Commission level.

There are two other grievances that are at arbitration level. One is the military case against City Hall which is in April. The other is a stipend grievance on March 15, 2021.

Members did receive their rate changes and the Local wanted to thank the administration for their work on getting this processed. Retro should be paid out on March 11, 2021.

Local 789 is doing a shoe drive at Arlington Street Community Center. The date for the drive is to be determined.

Local 789 is on track with the contract. The promotional process committee has been decided. The members for the committee are Lt. Armstrong, Lt. Campbell, Pvt. C. Hebert, and Dispatcher Jenkins.

Commissioner Garant thanked Engine 6, Lt. M. Haynes and company for their call to his house for assistance.

Commissioner Garant is glad to see progress on the promotional committee.

Commissioner Garant stated, according to the contract, there has to be a report sent to the HR Manager indicating the status of the sick bank. The Board of Fire Commissioners participates at the very end of a sick bank case. If there is a need to extend the benefit the board has to make a decision. Commissioner Garant requested that the board be copied on the Sick Bank Report that is sent to HR so the board is aware of how their decision might affect the solvency of the bank.

President Wholey agreed to send the report to the board.

**Motion** by Commissioner Marquis to accept and place on file discussion item 21 35

Seconded by Commissioner Patti

Vote: passed 5-yes

## OLD BUSINESS

**Master Plan Discussion**

21 28

Chief Rhodes stressed the importance of the Master Plan and the importance of moving forward with the plan. He also hopes NFR has the full support of the board for the acceptance of the Master Plan. He is also hopeful the Board of Fire Commissioners will be present at the March 23, 2021 presentation to the Board of Aldermen. Having the board present would show a good statement of support from the Commissioners to the Alderman to hopefully get them to adopt The Master Plan and take some ownership of it as well. He is confident that a good Strategic Planning Committee will be formed from top to bottom and come up with a good plan to help move the organization forward.

**Motion** by Commissioner Patti to accept, as presented, the Master Plan and move forward with the Strategic Planning Committee.

Seconded by Commissioner Lambert

Vote: passed 5-yes

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **NFR Strategic Planning Committee discussion**

**21 36**

Chief Rhodes said he would meet with Local 789 President Wholey to ask for a recommendation from the local. The senior leadership of the organization will be asked as well. The liaison or alternate liaison from the board of aldermen should also be consulted. Ideally someone from the community should be involved. A good report on the Strategic Planning Committee will be presented at the next Commission meeting.

**Motion** by Commissioner Garant to move forward to approve the establishment of the NFR Strategic Planning Committee and to get future reports on an ongoing basis.

Seconded by Commissioner Patti

Vote: passed 5-yes

## **REMARKS**

Commissioner Garant brought up that a former resident and native of Nashua, Gary Ledoux, is looking to create a Nashua Fire Rescue History Facebook Page to bring the history up. He wanted to bring it to everyone's attention. Chief Rhodes expressed his concern about the page. Discussion was that he can do what he wishes but it has to be unofficial and not backed by NFR. The Board of Fire Commission should not authorize the page. Mr. Ledoux should go out of his way to make it look different than any official NFR sites. Commissioner Garant said he would tell him to be sure to use the word "unofficial". Chief Rhodes was not sure how to advise him. Commissioner Burgess suggested to not give any advice on the page. Commissioner Lambert stressed that Mr. Ledoux has to stay away from the Nashua Fire Rescue look.

## **REMARKS BY FIRE COMMISSION**

N/A

## **PUBLIC COMMENT (RE: NFR NON-AGENDA ITEMS)**

N/A

## **PERSONNEL ITEMS**

### **Personnel Item**

**21 37 A**

**Motion** by Commissioner Patti to accept and place on file

Seconded by Commissioner Garant

Vote: passed 5-yes

## **NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

N/A

**TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 17:30 pm  
at 177 Lake Street, Classroom

**Date and Location of other Events**

Master Plan presentation to the Board of Alderman  
Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 19:30 pm

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**Motion** by Commissioner Marquis to adjourn the meeting at 18:17 PM  
Seconded by Commissioner Lambert  
Vote: passed 5-yes

**21 38**