

**CITY OF NASHUA
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 5, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kevin Burgess
Paul Garant
Ken Marquis
Anthony Patti

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Chief Brian D. Rhodes
Assistant Chief Steve M. Buxton

STAFF NOT PRESENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Deputy Fire Chief James Kirk
Alderman Tencza
Attorney Bolton
President of Local #789 – Lt. Thomas Wholey
Vice President of Local #789 – Pvt. Michael O’Brien
Various Members of Nashua Fire Rescue
Potential Commissioner Gary Lambert

THE MEETING CAME TO ORDER AT 17:30 PM

All stood as Fire Commissioner Marquis lead The Pledge of Allegiance.

A Moment of Silence was held for all recent deaths and all those lost and all of the men and women in the service.

PUBLIC COMMENT (RE: NFR AGENDA ITEMS)

N/A

OUT OF ORDER - Discussion of Fire Commissioner Replacement

20 96

Commissioner Burgess stated that a letter of resignation, effective 09/30/2020, from Commissioner Davidson was received regretfully a couple of weeks ago. Don mentioned to Commissioner Burgess that he had spoken with Gary Lambert. Mr. Lambert had expressed interest in the Board of Fire Commissioners during the previous election but the timing was off for him and he wasn’t able to
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run. Commissioner Burgess reached out to Mr. Lambert, on Don's suggestion, and he was in fact interested and excited for the potential of sitting on the Board of Fire Commissioners. Each of the sitting members of the board had an opportunity to reach out to Mr. Lambert and have some discussion regarding the vacancy.

Chief Rhodes wanted to publicly thank Don Davidson for his service. Don has been a pillar in the community for many years, he has been in city politics, this was his second time as a Fire Commissioner. This position seemed to invigorate him. Don will be missed as a member of the Fire Commission.

Gary Lambert expressed that it would be an honor to serve as a Fire Commissioner.

Motion by Commissioner Marquis to nominate and appoint Gary Lambert in the vacant Fire Commissioner seat

Seconded by Commissioner Garant

Vote: passed 4-yes

Corporate Council, Attorney Bolton, swore in newly appointed Fire Commissioner Lambert.

ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA – Introduced at Meeting

Vacant Vice Chair

20 103

Motion by Commissioner Marquis to appoint Commissioner Garant to Vice Chair

Seconded by Commissioner Patti

Vote: passed 5-yes

Discussion of Former Commissioner Davidson

20 104

Motion by Commissioner Garant to remove the communication (Don Davidson's resignation) from the Consent Agenda

Seconded by Commissioner Marquis

Commissioner Garant was happy when Don decided to throw his hat into the ring last fall and run for a seat on the board and happy that he won. His presence on the board provided a voice capable of sitting across from the mayor and speaking as equals; an ability the board had not had since 2003 when Don sat on the board as a replacement filling out a portion of the term of Commissioner Lavoie, who left to serve as a member of the Police Commission. Commissioner Garant thanked Don for his service to the city, twice as mayor, twice as a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners and with the Airport Authority. "Thank you Commissioner, Thank you Mr. Mayor, and finally, for a title he truly enjoyed, thank you Captain Davidson."

Commissioner Davidson's Resignation

20 98

Motion by Commissioner Garant to accept and place on file with regrets Commissioner Davidson's letter of resignation

Seconded by Commissioner Marquis

Vote: passed 5-yes

Commissioner Burgess wanted to echo both Commissioner Davidson and Chief Rhodes' remarks. Don was a big asset to NFR for the short time he served. Don's experience and knowledge was

second to none on this platform. Commissioner Burgess will miss having him a part of the commission and wished him well.

Local 789 President Wholey also wanted to thank Commissioner Davidson on behalf of Local 789. The members of Local 789 appreciate all the hard work, support, help and directive Commissioner Davidson provided to Local 789, especially with this last contract.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

September 14, 2020 Regular Meeting 20 97

Motion by Commissioner Garant to accept as presented the meeting minutes and place on file

Seconded by Commissioner Marquis

Vote: passed 5-yes

Communications: (1)

Removed (see item **20 104** above)

Departmental Detail Expenditures Report

20 99

Motion by Commissioner Garant to accept as presented the Departmental Detail Expenditures Report and place on file

Seconded by Commissioner Marquis

Vote: passed 5-yes

REGULAR AGENDA

Staff Reports

A. Chief Rhodes

20 100 A

Motion by Commissioner Garant to accept Chief Rhodes' report as presented and place on file

Seconded by Commissioner Patti

Vote: passed 5-yes

B. Assistant Chief Buxton

20 100 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

20 101

President Wholey congratulated Commissioner Lambert and is looking forward to working with him.

President Wholey expressed that the negotiation team, along with the Fire Administration and Board of Fire Commissioners negotiated in good faith and put together a great deal for the members that is long overdue. He is looking for the board's full support.

Local 789 has been working on getting the Center of Excellence, a rehab facility in Maryland, available to members. This is for members dealing with PTSD, mental or physical substance abuse. There is a set back with cost as far as healthcare coverage. Local 789 is working with the administration and the center to sit down with Human Resources to bridge the gap and get it accepted so if a member comes forward and says they need help they will be able to go to the facility. It is all geared towards firefighters. The IFF started this facility from the ground up.

OLD BUSINESS

CBA Discussion (To be discussed in Non-Public)

20 64 E

Motion by Commissioner Patti to approve the new TA CBA as presented and present to the Board of Aldermen.

Commissioner Garant made a ROLL CALL request.

Vote: passed 5-yes – by roll call

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

REMARKS

REMARKS BY FIRE COMMISSION

Commissioner Garant asked about the Single Station Dispatch Alert System that was presented at the last meeting. He asked about the cost of the system and what happens in a two company house. President Wholey and Lieutenant Reed spoke on the system again, giving a brief summary from the presentation. The presentation is available for review.

PUBLIC COMMENT (RE: NFR NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

N/A

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Personnel Item

20 102 A

Motion by Commissioner Marquis to accept and place on file
Seconded by Commissioner Patti

Vote: passed 5-yes

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NON-PUBLIC SESSION

20 105

Motion by Commissioner Patti at 18:01 PM to move into Non-Public session in accordance with N.H. RSA 91-A:3, subsection 2C, by roll call, which is required, to discuss matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting.

ROLL CALL

Vote: passed 5-yes – by roll call

Motion by Commissioner Burgess that the Board comes out of non-public session at 18:33 PM

Motion by Commissioner Garant at 18:37 PM to seal the record of the Non-Public session of Monday, 10/05/2020, until such time as the Board of Fire Commissioners vote that the record may be unsealed. The reason for sealing the record is that divulgence of this information could adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of the board. **20 105 A**
Seconded by Commissioner Lambert
Vote: passed 5-yes

MOTION TO ADJOURN

20 106

Motion by Commissioner Garant to adjourn the meeting at 18:39 PM
Seconded by Commissioner Marquis
Vote: passed 5-yes

TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday, November 2, 2020, 17:30 pm
at 177 Lake Street, Classroom

Dates and Locations of Other Events/Meetings: