

HYANNIS FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

Date of Meeting:	Thursday, January 22, 2026
Meeting Place:	95 High School Road Extension, Hyannis, MA 02601 and Zoom Meeting Dial-in Number: 1-305-224-1968

A quorum being duly present, Chairperson Cronin called the January 22, 2026 Hyannis Fire District Commissioner Regular Meeting to order at 7:01 PM

*Approved
2/12/26*

PRESENT: Chairperson Laura Cronin, Commissioner Peter Cross, Commissioner Alex Mercado, and Commissioner Demetrius Atsalis (Zoom)

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Peter Burke; Assistant Chief Gregory Dardia, Deputy Chief Jeffrey Lamothe, District Clerk-Treasurer TK Menesale; Hyannis Fire District (HFD) Recording Secretary Colleen Murphy, and guests

ABSENT: None

I. **OPEN SESSION:**

Chairperson Cronin took the meeting out of order to address the promotion subject in item 8. **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve to address the promotion subject in item 8.

CHIEF'S REPORT

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

- Chairperson Cronin: Aye
- Commissioner Cross: Aye
- Commissioner Mercado: Aye
- Commissioner Atsalis: Aye

- Deputy Chief Dardia discussed the promotion process, the candidates recommended for promotions, and these candidates' professional backgrounds
- Assistant Chief Dardia asked the board to approve the promotion of Lieutenant (Lt.) Eric Anderson to the position of Fire Safety Captain
- Assistant Chief Dardia asked the board to approve the promotion of FF Jordan Seitz to the position of Fire Prevention Lieutenant (Lt.)

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve to recommend Lt. Anderson to the position of Fire Safety Captain and to recommend FF Seitz to the position of Fire Safety Lt.

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

- Chairperson Cronin: Aye
- Commissioner Cross: Aye
- Commissioner Mercado: Aye
- Commissioner Atsalis: Aye

- Fire Safety Captain Anderson and Fire Prevention Lt. Seitz thanked the board

1. **MINUTES:**

- Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve the minutes of December 11, 2025 as amended

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

- Chairperson Cronin: Aye
- Commissioner Cross: Aye
- Commissioner Mercado: Aye
- Commissioner Atsalis: Aye

1. MINUTES (continued):

- Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve the minutes of January 8, 2026 as amended

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

Chairperson Cronin: Aye
Commissioner Cross: Aye
Commissioner Mercado: Aye
Commissioner Atsalis: Aye

2. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Chairperson Cronin stated the board received correspondence from the Greater Hyannis Civic Association's (GHCA) President Laura Cronin to the Barnstable Town Council
- This letter is about the Saint Joseph's House in Barnstable being moved from Winter Street to Main Street
- The concern was that this shelter was going to encompass the unhoused throughout the whole Cape and the Islands as opposed to a specific area
- The GHCA is requesting more information regarding this proposed change

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

4. STREETLIGHTS:

a. Audit:

- None

b. West Main:

- None

c. Ocean Avenue:

- Chairperson Cronin asked about the status of the streetlight manufacturing supplier
- Chief Assistant Dardia said he was contacted, and he received a recommendation for a new streetlight manufacturing supplier as the current light manufacturer was no longer going to be making these streetlights;
- Assistant Chief Dardia said there was an email request regarding the 18 Angell Road streetlight; this request is for a new streetlight at this location
- Commissioner Atsalis said he did receive this Angell Road request and he discussed this streetlight request at a previous board meeting
- Chief Burke mentioned that a review of the streetlight design should be done; Chairperson Cronin agreed with Chief Burke that the streetlight design should be reviewed

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- None

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Budget, elections and annual meeting:

- Chairperson Cronin said the Budget, elections and Annual Meeting's timelines should be added to this agenda item section going forward to make sure that everything is managed and completed for the budget items, elections items, and Annual Meeting items
- District Clerk-Treasurer Menesale asked if the agenda item title needed to include any other information
- Chairperson Cronin said the Budget, elections and Annual Meeting agenda title should be sufficient although the timeline information should be added

7. ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY CHAIR:

- None

8. CHIEF'S REPORT:

- Chief Burke said, presently, the HFD has a run volume of 7,647
- Chief Burke stated 2022 was a high run-volume year, then the run volume dropped off and it leveled off; but, right now the HFD is 2 or 3 calls above last year's run volume
- Chairperson Cronin asked if there is an industry model to compare a district's population relative to preferred emergency staffing numbers; Chief Burke said there is a map that compares the previous year call volume relative to population numbers, but this map does not forecast ideal staffing numbers relative to population density or other factors
- Chief Burke said that in the next two weeks there will be ladder 2 training, driver training and equipment training

- Chief Burke said the newly hired Executive Assistant to the Fire Chief, Paula Carill, is doing a great job over the last few months
- Chief Burke stated the HFD is currently preparing for the winter storm for next week
- Chief Burke said the award ceremony scheduled for next Tuesday is dependent on the weather, so the award ceremony date may have to change
- Chief Burke discussed with the board the non-administrative staff reporting structure and Chief Burke discussed the administrative staff reporting structure with the board
- Chief Burke said the HFD is fully staffed at 72 full-time employees; Chief Burke said the HFD is looking to hire more employees to ensure that the HFD has 73 or 74 full-time members, this hiring plan will address possible future vacancies
- Chairperson Cronin asked if the staff is cross trained within the different HFD's departments; Chief Burke said there are cross-trained staff efficiencies
- Chief Burke then went on to discuss the HFD hiring process, which is derived from the Bylaws, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the local regulations; Chief Burke detailed the minimum requirements to be a viable HFD candidate
- Chief Burke detailed for the board the hiring process such as the screening, the interviews, and the exams administered before a conditional offer is given
- Chief Burks said the promotions work is driven by the contract which is the tab 6 section that details the promotional policies and procedure; Chief Burke suggested to the board that it should negotiate that and make the promotional section more inclusive in the document to make it clearer on how the promotion process works
- Chief Burke discussed the promotional policies and the promotional procedures' pathways
- Chief Burke said the HFD is transparent in its structure, its hiring policies, and its promotional procedures
- Chief Burke stated the hiring and promotional process is more linear and logical now
- Chief Burke said the next meeting we will probably have an update on the hiring of candidates' policy
- Commissioner Cross commended Chief Burke and his staff on these improvements to these important processes and policies
- Chief Burke said the Water Rescue Team is out on the ice today training
- Chairperson Cronin asked Chief Burke to contact the board if the award ceremony date is rescheduled due to the inclement weather forecasted

9. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

Vote on Adjournment of public session:

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to Adjourn the public session

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

Chairperson Cronin: Aye

Commissioner Cross: Aye

Commissioner Mercado: Aye

Commissioner Atsalis: Aye

Adjourned at 7:37 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Murphy, HFD Recording Secretary

MEETING AGENDA
HYANNIS FIRE DISTRICT - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NOTICE OF MEETING IN ACCORDANCE WITH M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(b)
Laura Cronin- Chair

DATE OF MEETING: **Thursday, January 22, 2026**
TIME: **7:00 PM**
PLACE: **95 High School Road Extension, Hyannis, MA 02601**

REMOTE PARTICIPATION:

On **January 22, 2026**, a meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be conducted at the HYANNIS FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS. Real-time Public comment can be addressed to the Board utilizing the Zoom link or telephone number and access code listed below:

Link: Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/5042956607>
Meeting ID: 504 295 6607
For Public Comment Dial: 1-305-224-1968
Password: Hyannis1!

AGENDA & CALL TO ORDER:

I. OPEN SESSION

1. Minutes
 - a. Outstanding minutes:
 - i. December 11, 2025 & January 8, 2026
2. Correspondence
3. Public Comment
4. Street Lights
 - a. Audit
 - b. West Main Street
 - c. Ocean Ave
5. Old Business
6. New Business
 - a. Budget, Elections, Annual Meeting
7. Items not reasonably anticipated by Chair
8. Chiefs Report
9. Public Comment
10. Next Meeting Date
 - a. Thursday, February 12, 2026

ADJOURN

The Chair reserves the right to call items on the agenda out of order. Items are listed in their approximate order, and items may be reached earlier or later than the posted order. Items listed for executive session may also be discussed in open session. The listing of items contains those items reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. Persons interested are advised that in the event that any matter taken up at the meeting that remains unfinished at the close of the meeting may be put off to a continued session of the meeting, in accordance with the Open Meeting Law.