

HYANNIS FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

Date of Meeting:	Thursday, April 9, 2026
Meeting Place:	95 High School Road Extension, Hyannis, MA 02601 and Zoom Meeting Dial-in Number: 1-305-224-1968

Approval
L. Cronin
5/29/26

A quorum being duly present, Chairperson Cronin called the April 9, 2026 Hyannis Fire District Commissioner Regular Meeting to order at 7:06 PM

PRESENT: Chairperson Laura Cronin, Commissioner Peter Cross, and Commissioner Alex Mercado
ALSO PRESENT: Chief Peter Burke, Assistant Chief Gregory Dardia, Hyannis Fire District (HFD) Recording Secretary Colleen Murphy, and guests
ABSENT: Commissioner Demetrius Atsalis

I. OPEN SESSION:

Chairperson Cronin took the meeting out of order to address the report about the cold-stored whole blood project

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve to address the report about the cold-stored whole blood project

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

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

- Chief Burke introduced FF (firefighter) Michael Herrmann and Captain Peter Nagorka; Chief Burke said they have been working on the cold-stored whole blood project and they will present a more detailed look into this project's information for the board
- FF Herrmann said blood transfusions have been around for about 200 years, but it was not until 2018 that blood transfusions started to be done in civilian ambulances
- FF Herrmann said there are only about 300 civilian ambulances that are qualified to administer blood transfusions and the HFD is now applying for this blood transfusion opportunity
- FF Herrmann said early trauma care is critical to increase survival rates; currently, the method to help a critically injured patient who is hemorrhaging blood is to stop the bleeding and sometimes inject a clotting agent into the victim's IV (intravenous), but we cannot replace the blood that was already lost with these methods
- FF Herrmann said it is important we try to improve this survival rate; for every 1-minute delay in a patient receiving blood (due to blood loss) that causes an 11% increase in mortality which is significant
- FF Herrmann said on average the HFD can load a patient and then transport them to Cape Cod Hospital in about 28 minutes; FF Herrmann said that studies have shown that the earlier a patient is given a blood transfusion then the overall blood volume replaced tends to be less; FF Herrmann stressed that the earlier blood is transfused then the amount of blood needed for the patient is reduced which causes a reduction on the overall blood demand for the hospital
- Captain Nagorka said the Canton Fire Department is the first to be approved for this cold-stored whole blood project a few years ago; Captain Nagorka said the Canton Fire Department was only approved for adult trauma
- The Merrimack Health Lawrence Hospital's (formerly Lawrence General Hospital) EMS (Emergency Management System) first to be approved for medical patients
- Captain Nagorka said the Washington DC's (District of Columbia) Fire/EMS is a high volume, urban system which tends to have a lot of blood loss patients
Captain Nagorka said the Washington DC's Fire/EMS has been very responsive to the HFD's information queries and they have helped us on structuring our best practices and proposed transfusion protocols; we are basing our practice closely on their practices and protocols as the HFD would be using the same blood

I. OPEN SESSION (continued):

- transfusion equipment as the Washington DC Fire/EMS
- Captain Nagorka said the proposed staffing model is for 16 transfusion paramedics and we will be put through an intense training; we hope to assign at least 4 people for each shift; ambulance 1 will get it and the second response will be decided later on; the 2nd cooler will be stocked will give us redundancy for back up
 - Captain Nagorka said the HFD is ideally located in a central location within the district to allow the best response time to any emergency location
 - Captain Nagorka said the storage for the blood will be similar to what we did for the Covid vaccines;
 - Commissioner Cross asked how long does blood last
 - FF Hermann said blood lasts from 28 to 31 days with dependencies; if we do not use the blood then it will go back to Cape Cod Hospital
 - FF Hermann said we will make sure we will have a 0-waste blood which will also be put in as a priority use at the hospital; FF Hermann said the HFD will be orchestrating blood drives both internally and externally with the Cape Cod Hospital
 - Chairperson Cronin asked what blood type will the HFD carry
 - FF Hermann said the HFD will carry either O+ or O- blood types
 - Chairperson Cronin asked about the differences in the saline IVs
 - Captain Nagorka said the main issue with saline is that it has a low pH (potential of Hydrogen or power of Hydrogen) and this acidity prevents clots from forming while potentially washing the clotted blood away; saline does not deliver oxygen to the tissue
 - Chairperson Cronin asked about the policies for patient consent
 - FF Hermann said HFD will get direct verbal consent, but if the HFD has an unresponsive or a critical state patient then the HFD will operate under implied consent
 - Chairperson Cronin asked about the timeline for this project's final approval
 - Captain Nagorka said we sent the application to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; now we are waiting to hear if we get approval to participate in the cold-stored whole blood project
 - Captain Nagorka said if the HFD is chosen to participate in this project then the HFD will have 30 days to train
 - Chief Burke will let the board, the Town of Barnstable, and the mutual aid partners know the HFD is part of the cold-stored whole blood project if the HFD is approved for this project
 - Chief Burke said the HFD will work with Cape Cod Hospital to change policies so that this cold-stored whole blood project could work
 - Chief Burke said the application decision takes 75 days and this application process for submission has taken 18 months of work to get to this point where the HFD is eligible to apply for this opportunity
 - The board thanked the presenters for their hard work and sharing with the board the cold-storage whole blood project information

MINUTES:

- Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve the minutes of March 26, 2026 as amended

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

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

2. CORRESPONDENCE:

- None

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

4. STREETLIGHTS:

- a. Audit:
 - None

4. STREETLIGHTS (continued):

b. West Main:

- None

c. Angell Road:

- None

d. Ocean Avenue:

- None

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- None

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Budget, Elections, and Annual Meeting

- Chief Burke handed out the 2 FY27 draft budgets to the board
- Chief Burke said April 24, 2026 is the target for the budget's warrants to be signed
- Chief Burke said one budget is for the level-service budget while the other budget reflects the proposed increase in staffing
- Chief Burke discussed the differences between the 2 draft budgets with the board
- Chief Burke said he recommends scheduling 13 members for the morning and evening crew shifts based on the current situation that the HFD does not have coverage when there are multiple calls
- Chief Burke stated that succession planning should be structured so that when retirements happen, we have key personal ready to assume any vacated position
- Chairperson Cronin asked if the second Deputy Chief position is a permanent position
- Chief Burke said the position of the second Deputy Chief could either be a temporary or a permanent position in the future.
- Chief Burke stated that the HFD could also separate the duties of the Deputy Chiefs to address additional items that are not able to be completed, presently
- Chairperson Cronin asked for a list of what the 2 Deputy Chiefs' job descriptions would be and how the organizational structure would adapt to having 2 different Deputy Chiefs, if these duties were split between these two different Deputy Chiefs; Chief Burke said he will get back to the board with this information
- Chairperson Cronin asked for Chief Burke to draft that staffing plan as it would help the board to better understand the proposed changes
- Chief Burke said he will draft this staffing plan in more detail for the board to better understand the proposed staff additions
- The board discussed the proposed shift increases and how this proposal to increase staff across the 24 hour continuum would help the HFD with less overtime occurrences while providing increased coverage
- Chief Burke said he will have some statistical analysis for the board detailing how these proposed changes will affect the HFD both financially and strategically
- Commissioner Cross asked Chief Burke to get the call volume by time of day
- Commissioner Cross said the HFD needs to be proactive as there is a lot of building going on within the district so the HFD needs to grow with that to be able to address any emergency situations that arise as the population increases
- District Clerk-Treasurer Sara Hunter said our attorney advised us the stenographer they will be using, uses video to record the meeting, and would type the meeting minute transcript from the video. This is different than how it was done and would be the first time our annual meeting will be using video.
the board agreed to use a videographer to record this meeting.
- The board discussed the Annual Meeting's logistics; Chairperson Cronin said Walter Ralston is scheduled to be the Moderator and the temporary District Clerk-Treasurer, Sara Hunter will swear in the officers

7. ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY CHAIR:

- None

8. CHIEF'S REPORT:

- Chief Burke said Deputy Chief Jeffrey Lamothe received the fire equipment grant award of \$12,175.12 for the HFD
- Chief Burke said regarding Governor Maura Healy of Massachusetts administration's Blizzard of 2026 reimbursement status, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts applied to the federal government for the cost of the Blizzard of 2026; if the federal government accepts the commonwealth's monetary appeal and they (both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the federal government) accept the HFD's Blizzard of 2026 reimbursement amount, then HFD has a possibility of receiving a reimbursement for the expenses incurred during the Blizzard of 2026

8. CHIEF'S REPORT (continued):

- Chief Burke said the volume was at 2008 calls, so this volume makes this time period the second busiest call volume year on record
- Assistant Chief Dardia said the panel interviewed 10 people for the open positions; Assistant Chief Dardia said he and his team are crunching the numbers and on April 29, 2026 the physical health and psychological testing will commence, then the physical endurance test will be administered; the HFD also does a CORI report (Criminal Offender Record Information), license check, and background check for each candidate; once these items are completed and the decision is made, the HFD will give the offers to the chosen candidates; Assistant Chief Dardia said the decision is scheduled to be made at the end of April 2026
- Commissioner Cross asked if the turnout gear was PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) -free gear
- Chief Burke said HFD is in the process of replacing any equipment to get rid of PFAS & its turnout gear; Chief Burke stated anything HFD purchases now has to be ensured PFAS-free gear; Chief Burke said everyone's hood will be PFAS-free gear
- Chief Burke said there is still some concern about what the replacement gear looks like for the turnout gear
- Chairperson Cronin asked Chief Burke if the HFD's staff uses the Firefighter Academy in Stowe, Massachusetts which was mentioned in the media due to the accident at this facility.
- Chief Burke stated the HFD typically goes to the Bridgewater, Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and not the Stow location where the accident recently occurred with the Chelmsford firefighter instructor

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

Adjourned at 8:09 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Murphy, HFD Recording Secretary