

*Approved
3/26/26*

HYANNIS FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

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| Date of Meeting: | Thursday, March 12, 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 March 12, 2026, Hyannis Fire District Commissioner Regular Meeting to order at 7:02 PM

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

I. OPEN SESSION:

MINUTES:

- Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted to approve the minutes of February 12, 2026, as amended

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

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

1. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Chairperson Cronin said the board received a letter last week, dated February 10, 2026
- Chairperson Cronin said Mr. Richard Gallagher requested in his letter for the board to waive the copy fee for certain segments of people who do not have residency in the Hyannis Fire District, such as senior citizens and veterans.
- Chairperson Cronin said the board will respond to Mr. Gallagher to let him know the board received his written request for copy fee exceptions.
- The board has not changed the copy fee schedule policy; Chairperson Cronin stated the board will write back to Mr. Gallagher that the copy fee schedule policy has not changed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

4. STREETLIGHTS:

a. Audit:

- None

b. West Main Street:

- The West Main Street streetlight is down; Commissioner Mercado will follow up to make sure this streetlight issue is resolved

c. Angell Road:

- Chairperson Cronin asked if Commissioner Mercado if Commissioner Atsalis helped him respond to this request,
- Commissioner Mercado stated he will follow up with Commissioner Atsalis with this request.

d. Ocean Avenue:

- The Ocean Avenue streetlight is down; Commissioner Mercado will follow up to make sure this streetlight issue is resolved

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- None

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Budget, Elections, Annual Meeting

- District Clerk-Treasurer Menesale said the health insurance rate is set at an 8% increase and the repayment assessment rate increased 14%
- District Clerk-Treasurer stated the last day for nomination papers is March 20, 2026, no one else has submitted papers,

6. NEW BUSINESS (continued):

- District Clerk-Treasurer Menesale said HFD has an audit update because it received a \$750k grant so adhering to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' regulation HFD will need to pay the Town of Barnstable's accountant \$5k more to complete this audit; District Clerk-Treasurer Menesale said the HFD received this updated audit information this week.
- District Clerk-Treasurer Menesale stated the debt compliance audit is complete.
- Chairperson Cronin said it was a wonderful recognition ceremony for the Hyannis Fire Department; she said it was a very nice event, and she thanked Chief Burke and Assistant Chief Dardia, and the staff for their work coordinating and keeping this HFD event going every year.
- Commissioner Cross stated the HFD ceremony recognized a very impressive group of first responders Professionals.

7. ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY CHAIR:

- None

8. CHIEF'S REPORT:

- Chief Burke said the call volume is at 1600 calls which is about 160 calls over last year's call volume
- Chief Burke said the HFD staff did a great job during and after the blizzard; Chief Burke said there was a lot of work due to the storm, but only one staff car was damaged by a fallen tree
- Commissioner Cross said the HFD staff worked a lot of hours due to the storm, the subsequent clean up needed, and any other emergencies that needed to be addressed during this time period
- Next meeting Assistant Chief Dardia will report to the board in more detail on HFD's storm response during the Blizzard of 2026.
- Chief Burke stated that the HFD should explore whether it wants to begin carrying cold-stored whole blood in the ambulance in response to blood loss emergencies; Chief Burke stated the cold-stored whole blood reduces mortality rates over conventional blood loss emergency response measures.
- Chief Burke said carrying cold-stored whole blood in the ambulances will save lives; Chief Burke stated, currently, only 3 programs are using this cold-stored whole blood in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Commissioner Cross said this cold-stored whole blood trauma response is a significant improvement in trauma care for blood loss and the HFD should explore this advancement.
- Chief Burke said the cold-stored whole blood inventory concept will be presented to the board in the next meeting so that the board can decide if it wants the HFD to be part of this new program
- Chairperson Cronin asked why so few programs are using this method if the mortality rates are reduced
- Chief Burke stated there is a high-level of regulation concerning this new program as it regulates the disbursement of blood products
- The board discussed cold-stored whole blood, which is a specific, refrigerated form used for trauma resuscitation addressing blood loss
- Chief Burke said Assistant Chief Dardia has been working on the hiring process and succession planning
- Chief Burke said regarding the 4 current open positions, 1 open position is pending; Assistant Chief Dardia is working on that interview and he will come back to the board with candidates
- Commissioner Cross asked Chief Burke about Ladder 2's status
- Chief Burke said Ladder 2 is officially in service, it has gone to 2 fires already, Chief Burke said it has gone well on the runs.
- Assistant Chief Dardia said Ladder 2 has definitely been put to the test and Ladder 2 has performed well.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

10. Executive Session Commissioner Cronin asked for a motion for the Board of Commissioners to go into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21 (a) (2), to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel – Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, District Clerk Treasurer, and will not return to public session.

Commissioner Mercado made the motion as noted, Commissioner Cross seconded.

VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Adjourn: 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 7:33 PM
Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Murphy, HFD Recording Secretary