

CITY OF NASHUA
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026

THE MEETING CAME TO ORDER AT 17:34 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kevin Burgess
Thomas Kelly
Gary Lambert
Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
John Steere

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

N/A

STAFF PRESENT:

Chief Steve M. Buxton
Assistant Chief Eric A. Tremblay
Assistant Chief Adam M. Pouliot
Business Manager Karen M. Conde
Local 789 President Cy Hebert

STAFF NOT PRESENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Board of Alderman Liaison John Sullivan (Left when meeting went in to Non-Public)
Alderman at Large Michael O'Brien Sr. (Left when meeting went in to Non-Public)

All stood as Commissioner Lambert led the Pledge of Allegiance.
A Moment of Silence was held for all those lost in the fire service.

PUBLIC COMMENT (RE: NFR AGENDA ITEMS)

Alderman at Large Michael O'Brien Sr. discussed the following:

- The 440 Amherst Street incident was discussed at the Pennichuck meeting.
 - Members of press extremely complimentary and concerned about injuries that happened at the Incident.
 - Hoping for speedy recovery for those injured
 - Mention of the frozen hydrants
 - Pennichuck gave an explanation

- Encouraged and impressed as a former member of NFR

Board of Alderman Liaison John Sullivan expressed his gratitude

- Thank you doesn't do justice for what the department does for the community to keep it safe

- Grateful for the bravery and professionalism during the incident
- NFR is so well run.
- Thank you from the city.
- Delighted to see that one of the members was released from the hospital.
- All the best to everyone.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes:

26 11	January 7, 2026	Annual Meeting Minutes
26 12	January 7, 2026	Regular Meeting Minutes
26 13	January 7, 2026	Non-Public Session Minutes
26 14	January 21, 2026	Special Meeting Minutes

Reports:

- 26 15** Departmental Detail Expenditures Report
26 16 Accidental / Damage Report (1)

Communications:

- 26 17** From: Town of Dunstable, MA
 Re: Thank You
26 18 From: Amherst Fire & EMS
 Re: Sincere Thank You
26 19 From: Department of Safety
 Re: Fire Fighter Cancer Screening Pilot Program

26 11 thru 26 19 Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion by Commissioner Steere to accept and place on file, as presented, the Consent Agenda items

Seconded by Commissioner Lambert

MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR AGENDA

- 25 10** Station Five Feasibility Study, December Update/Presentation

Non-Public Session

MOTION BY Commissioner Melizzi-Golja THAT THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS GO INTO Non-Public Session. BY ROLL CALL, PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3 II (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.

Seconded by Commissioner Kelly

A viva voce roll call was taken, which resulted as follows:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Commissioner Kelly	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Commissioner Lambert	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Commissioner Steere	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Commissioner Melizzi-Golja	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Commissioner Burgess	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL #	<u>5</u>	<u> </u>

MOTION CARRIED

The Board of Fire Commissioners went into non-public session at 17:40 PM

MOTION BY Commissioner Kelly TO COME OUT OF THE NON-PUBLIC SESSION AND RETURN TO THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING.

Seconded by Commissioner Steere

MOTION CARRIED

The Board of FIRE COMMISSIONERS came out of non-public session at 18:38 PM

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER Melizzi-Golja THAT THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS SEAL THE MINUTES OF THE NON-PUBLIC SESSION BY ROLL CALL UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE MAJORITY OF THE BOARD VOTES THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY WOULD NO LONGER BE SERVED, BY ROLL CALL

Seconded by Commissioner Steere

A viva voce roll call was taken, which resulted as follows:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Commissioner Kelly	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Commissioner Lambert	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Commissioner Steere	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Commissioner Melizzi-Golja	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Commissioner Burgess	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL #	<u>5</u>	<u> </u>

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Commissioner Steere to accept and approve the LeftField report/draft presented and send to the Board of Alderman for the Special Meeting on Tuesday, 02/10/2026

Seconded by Commissioner Lambert

MOTION CARRIED

Staff Reports:

26 20 A Chief Buxton

Chief Buxton expressed that he can address any questions regarding his submitted report and discussed the following:

- Thanked the commission, the Assistant Chief, Local 789 President Cy Hebert, Local 789, the members and their families throughout the 440 Amherst Street incident.
- Local 789 worked to get family members set up in hotels
- A lot of family support for the members that were injured took place
- Could not be prouder of the collaborative effort that we have in the organization.
- It is very humbling and a pleasure to work side by side with the members every single day.
- Two members hospitalized.
 - One was released this afternoon.
 - Within an hour's notice members of NFR, NPD, SNHMC employees gave him a big send off as he left the hospital
 - One still in the hospital
 - Should make a full recovery
- NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board), a federal agency that handles all things transportation, is in the City and taking over the investigation.
 - They are involved because the gas delivered to the building is through a gas pipeline so this falls under their jurisdiction.
 - Two groups that will be investigating
 - Emergency Response Group
 - Pipeline Group
 - The purpose of their investigation is to improve things in the future. It is not to find fault or create legal matters. It is to gather information to see if something could have been done to prevent the incident from happening both on the pipeline side of things and the response to the incident.
 - Any media requests will be directed to NTSB.
- Press conference too place at Lake Street on Tuesday, 02/03/2026.
 - Overall the media has been good about respecting privacy.

Commissioner Kelly expressed that he does not know how to articulate how proud he is, personally, for what the department did throughout the incident and asked about the post incident review. He was concerned about the “dead” fire hydrants.

Chief Buxton explained that there will be an after-action review for this incident, just as there is for other incidents.

Commissioner Kelly continued to express how impressed he was with the actions throughout the incident.

Commissioner Melizzi-Golja expressed that the important thing is to share the outcome of the after-incident review with the commission in order to allocate resources and support the department, be it health needs, mental health needs, equipment, training, etc.

Chief Buxton expressed that he informs the commission as quickly as possible as time permits, the operation takes priority.

Commissioner Melizzi-Golja mentioned that WMUR did a spotlight on why NFR can respond the way it does because of the Emergency Response System that is in place.

Chief Buxton expressed that the staffing model at NFR has been a collaborative effort with administrative, the labor group and City Hall. It has not always been this way. NFR sets the bar.

Commissioner Lambert commented that keeping the names of the injured confidential was necessary.

- Deputy Fire Chief Glenn Telgen will be retiring.
- A few promotions will need to be authorized at the March meeting.
- Conservation Commission Meeting approval for the water line to the drill yard was approved. It will go to the Zoning Board of Adjustment on Tuesday, 02/10/2026.

Motion by Commissioner Steere to accept Item 26 20 A, Chief Buxton's February commission report, as presented, and place on file.

Seconded by Commissioner Lambert

MOTION CARRIED

26 20 B Assistant Chief Tremblay

Assistant Chief Tremblay expressed that he can address any questions regarding his submitted report and discussed the following:

- Definitely wanted to echo Chief Buxton's sentiment on the men & women of NFR they work with and Local 789.
- More candidates were interviewed for Fire Alarm.
 - The hope is to be fully staffed by summer.

Motion by Commissioner Kelly to accept Item 26 20 B Assistant Chief Tremblay's February commission report, as submitted, and place on file.

Seconded by Commissioner Lambert

MOTION CARRIED

26 20 C Assistant Chief Pouliot

Assistant Chief Pouliot expressed that he can address any questions regarding his submitted report and discussed the following:

- The new Fire Alarm Operator is scheduled to start February 17th, comes with lots of experience.
- Winter has proven to be challenging with the aging heating systems.
- Spit Brook Road heating failed, had to pivot and use temporary heating system, the new heating system has been completed
- Conant Road heating failed, had to rent heating equipment temporarily, heating system now repaired.
- Conant Road roof project started.

Motion by Commissioner Steere to accept Item 26 20 C Assistant Chief Pouliot's February commission report, as submitted, and place on file.

Seconded by Commissioner Kelly

MOTION CARRIED

26 20 D Quarterly Budget Update

- Trending typically for payroll and operating lines
- HVAC and Building & Grounds continue to be challenging and are running low.
- No issues at this time with budget overall
- The Fleet Mechanic accounts are low but that is not unusual.
- Seven months through the fiscal year.

Motion by Commissioner Steere to accept Item 26 20 D the Quarterly Budget Update, as presented, and place on file.

Seconded by Commissioner Lambert

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion:

26 21 Local 789

Local 789 President Cy Hebert discussed the following:

- It has proven to be a long week,
- The words May Day on the radio are probably the worst for everyone, especially those on the apparatus. It takes everything up a notch.
- All members stepped up, everyone made it happen.
- All the training and experience NFR has proved to be beneficial for the incident at 440 Amherst Street and made it go as smooth as it could go.
- Wanted to reiterate everything that the chiefs said.
- Leadership has been impeccable, supportive and sets the tone for everything we do.
- The relationship administration and the Local Executive board has built over the last year proved to be so important, everything went in to motion for the incident. The trust is there.
- The leadership team has been great beyond the other night.
- Very proud of the organization
- Continue to assist the injured members and keep receiving assistance from outside the organization and community.

Commissioner Kelly inquired if anything was needed from the commission. President Hebert said not at this time but we be sure to reach out if needed.

Commissioner Steere informed everyone about a young student in Massachusetts that is thinking about NFR. He expressed this to highlight that NFR is being thought of outside of the community.

Motion by Commissioner Lambert to accept Item 26 21, as presented and placed on file.

Seconded by Commissioner Kelly

MOTION CARRIED

Old Business:

25 15 Board of Fire Commission By-Laws

No update, leave on agenda

25 88 Fire Alarm Staffing Update

Refer to Assistant Chief Tremblay and Assistant Chief Pouliot's reports above.

26 02 NFR Mission Statement

Commissioners will review the Mission Statement and discuss the language at the March Meeting.

New Business:

26 22 Authorization for action: Personnel

Approval for Fire Alarm Operator New Hire List

Motion by Commissioner Melizzi-Golja to accept and approve Item 26 22, the New Hire List for Fire Alarm Operators, as presented and placed on file.

Seconded by Commissioner Kelly

MOTION CARRIED

Personnel:

N/A

Remarks by Fire Commissioners

Commissioner Lambert wanted to discuss the order of the meeting.

A discussion took place and it will be revisited.

Public Comment

N/A

Date, Time and Location of Next BOFC Meeting:

- Wednesday ~ March 4, 2026 ~ 5:30 pm ~ 177 Lake Street Training Classroom

Date, Time and Location of other Events

Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Lambert to adjourn the meeting at 19:35 PM

Seconded by Commissioner Steere

MOTION CARRIED