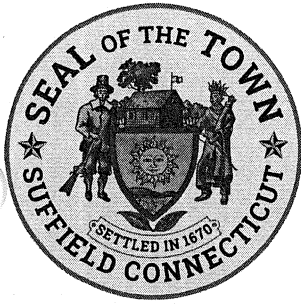


TOWN OF SUFFIELD

2026 APR -9 PM 4: 26

REC'D BY: *Chm*



Meeting Minutes Fire Commission Special Meeting

Meeting Date: April 2, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Hybrid (In-Person and Zoom)
Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room, 83 Mountain Rd Suffield, CT 06078

In Attendance: First Selectman, Interim Fire Commission Chair, Colin Moll, Commissioner Bucior, Commissioner Christian, Commissioner O'Hurley, Commissioner Prusi, Commissioner Thibedeau, Commissioner Vindigni, Chief Gauthier, Lieutenant Louis, Recording Secretary Shannon Foley

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Moll.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Public Comment

Don Miner, 1855 Mapleton Ave
Steve Domin, 1781 Mountain Road
Roger Dubiel, 2 Broadleaf Circle
Lewis Cannon, 220 Copper Hill Road
Thomas Romano, 860 North Stone Street

Election of Fire Commission Chair

Chair Moll began the Election of Chairperson.

Nominations for the position of Chairman

Commissioner Vindigni nominated Nathan Prusi for the position of Chairman. Commissioner Thibedeau seconded. Commissioner Bucior nominated Paul Christian for the position of Chairman. Commissioner O'Hurley seconded.

Vote of Nathan Prusi for the position of Chairman

Vote: 3 in favor (Prusi, Thibedeau and Vindigni) and 3 opposed (Bucior, Christian and O'Hurley).

Vote of Paul Christian for the position of Chairman

Vote: 3 in favor (Bucior, Christian and O'Hurley) and 3 opposed (Prusi, Thibedeau and Vindigni).

Both votes resulted in a tie, and no candidate was elected Chairman.

Discussion and Approval of Fire Chief and Lieutenant Positions and Next Steps

Chair Moll opened discussion regarding the appointment of a new Fire Chief and Lieutenant following Chief Cunningham's resignation.

Chair Moll announced the proposed promotions of Lieutenant Brian Gauthier to Fire Chief and Zachary Louis to Lieutenant, supporting advancement from within given the department's current needs. Discussion pursued amongst the commission.

Commissioners Prusi, Thibedeau and Vindigni supported the appointments, citing the candidates' qualifications, experience, and familiarity with the department.

Commissioners Prusi, Bucior, Christian and O'Hurley emphasized the importance of following proper promotion guidelines and procedures established by the fire commission, including job postings and interviews, rather than making promotions without a formal process. Expressing support for both candidates, while advocating for a structured promotion approach that aligns with past practices.

Chief Gauthier and Lieutenant Louis defended their qualifications and expressed commitment to the town and improving the department's operations.

Commissioner Prusi made a motion to promote Lieutenant Brian Gauthier to Fire Chief. Commissioner Vindigni seconded the motion. Vote: 4 in favor (Bucior, Prusi, Thibedeau and Vindigni) and 2 opposed (Christian and O'Hurley).

Commissioner Vindigni made a motion to promote Zachary Louis to Lieutenant. Commissioner Prusi seconded the motion. Vote: 4 in favor (Bucior, Prusi, Thibedeau and Vindigni) and 2 opposed (Christian and O'Hurley).

Discussion of Facilities Master Plan for Fire House HQ

Chair Moll opened discussion regarding the Fire Department's Facilities Master Plan, including three proposed options and considerations for new construction versus renovation of the existing station. Discussion pursued amongst the commission.

The Commission reviewed the options presented by the consultants, with a general preference expressed for the middle option (approximately 15,000 square feet). Commissioners requested additional cost comparisons between renovation and new construction.

Chief Gauthier will meet with the Fire Department to further define operational needs and priorities. The Commission agreed to provide their feedback to Chair Moll and to reconvene at a future meeting to finalize requirements for the consultants.

Adjournment

Commissioner Prusi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Commissioner Bucior seconded the motion. Vote: 6-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Foley
Recording Secretary

Amanda Thibedeau
Fire Commission Secretary