

The Avon Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

995TH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Company 1,

25 Darling Drive, Avon, CT 06001 Meeting Hall

Thursday, May 28, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE:

Board President Jamie DiPace called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Also present: Assistant Treasurer Christina Adajian, Secretary Jeff Bernetich, Board Member Dave Bourgoïn, Board Member Nancy Crozier, Board Member Chip Carpenter, Board Member Tom Post, Vice President Mark Wilson; AVFD Member & Town-Appointed Representative to Town Council Jim Speich; and Chief Bruce Appell.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MINUTES FROM PRECEDING MEETING(S):

- Regular Meeting April 2026: Nancy Crozier motioned to approve minutes as submitted; seconded by Dave Bourgoïn. All were in favor; motion carried.

4. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

All agenda items from audience are limited to five (5) minutes or less

5. COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Tom Post and Jamie DiPace discussed an issue related to the Explorer group and structure fire activity.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

A Worker's Compensation hearing with the Town of Avon related to deceased member was mentioned.

- LODD Monument and Plaque Committee: Jamie DiPace spoke with Co. 3 Captain Sanderson re. creation of committee for this topic re. a memorial to David Theriault. He felt the necessity of this re. a line of duty death; this is the first within the Avon Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD). He would like a plaque at each station. He is seeking members' interest in joining the committee. Bruce Appell suggested a conceptual plan but also waiting until the fire stations renovation plan becomes finalized, and the committee's plan can be incorporated in the finalization.
- Chief Evaluation – Concerns and Positive Feedback by June 22, 2026: Jamie DiPace asked the Board to submit questions or concerns and positive feedback related to the Chief's position by the next Board meeting to make a decision whether to go through a process or reappoint his position. Jamie DiPace believes there should be an open process for others to also apply to be Chief. Jim Speich mentioned that a self-assessment should be given to the current Chief to complete and submit it to the Board.
- CT Fallen FF Memorial Wall Paperwork – Jamie DiPace submitted paperwork to add David Theriault's name to the wall.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT FROM TREASURER/ASSISTANT TREASURER:

- Month-end Report for FY25/26 – Corporation Funds: Christina Adajian presented in Treasurer Stephen Gwizdak's meeting absence.
- Fundraising Account:
- EB Trust: Probate hearing on June 23, 2026, for the Bank of America to release the funds, approximately \$134,000 less court fees, to the AVFD. There is a need to discuss AVFD budget fund creation and disbursement, including spending that remains outside of the AVFD operating budget. Discussion of Treasurer and duties ensued.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- Building Committee Update - Jim Speich: He reported in detail. Laura Ward was working very hard on community communication outreach. He attended a station design conference, and the course content aligned with the AVFD's designs.
- Stipend Transition Status – Working Group: Jamie DiPace would like to help launch a stipend program, and he will create a small working group comprised of himself, Mark Wilson, Joe Speich, Jim Speich, approximately a total of six to seven people. Funding will need to be determined. The number one priority is keeping people and those people responding to calls.
- Scholarship - Budget \$4000 each year - 1 gift in Chief Theriault name - amount to be determined: Tabled.
- 250th July 4th Independence event sponsorship: Jamie DiPace requested that the AVFD be named a sponsor for the event. The department is donating time, at least \$2,000-\$3,000 worth of services. The 250th committee did not feel that services donation was an appropriate sponsorship. Bruce Appell stated that an AVFD ladder truck will be available for the event. There will be separate Fire Marshal requirements at the event. Possibly, there will be department safety demonstrations for the public. Jim Speich mentioned that the AVFD could sponsor a banner. The event set-up will be on Thompson Road.
- AOG MEM-2c Revisions – Tabled.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- Bring in new members from other volunteer communities - Have other communities been spoken with and should they be? – Continued: Jamie DiPace mentioned some issues related to out-of-town members. The issue of Headquarters Administration work getting completed was discussed. Board members discussed the need for a shift program. Bruce Appell stated the issues with Avon resident members who do not show up to calls. A full discussion on membership issues ensued.

10. CHIEF'S REPORT:

In response to Jamie DiPace's request, Bruce Appell provided an update on the four new pieces of apparatus. Bruce Appell stated that new officer promotions will be effective June 1, 2026. He stated that emergency services communications expert and trainer Zach Mathews will present a session to the membership, any members choose to participate, on Jun 3, 2026. 100% of the officers will take part in individual training sessions that day.

11. OTHER BUSINESS (PENDING ITEMS)

- Duty Shift Planning: Tabled
- Retired Members Status: Pending

- AOG Proposed Revisions: Pending
 - MEM-2e – Termination of Membership and Reinstatement
 - AWD-4 – Legacy Award (new): This award was discussed.

Jamie DiPace mentioned the possibility of cancelling the July and August Corporation meetings; he asked for Board feedback. Tom Post mentioned that Member Dennis Bianchi requested money for Bingo prizes at the summer family picnic. A motion was made by Tom Post for the Board to allow \$300.00 from Corporation funds to be spent on Bingo prizes at the members' family picnic 2026. Dave Bourgojn seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion carried.

12. ADJOURN:

8:50 p.m. Dave Bourgojn motioned to adjourn; seconded by Mark Wilson. All in favor; motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Susan Guimaraes, Administrative Coordinator, on behalf of Secretary Jeff Bernetich.

Upcoming Meetings: Corporation meeting on June 8, 2026; Board meeting June 25, 2026, 7:00 p.m.