

The Avon Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

997th BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Company 1, 25 Darling Drive, Avon, CT 06001
Meeting Hall
Thursday, July 30, 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE:

Board President - Jamie DiPace called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Also present: Vice President Mark Wilson, Secretary Jeff Bernetich, Board Treasurer Stephen Gwizdak, Board Member Dave Bourgojn, Board Member Nancy Crozier, AVFD Member & Town-Appointed Representative to Town Council Jim Speich; and Chief Bruce Appell.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MINUTES FROM PRECEDING MEETING(S):

- The minutes from the June 25, 2026 board meeting were reviewed. Jamie DiPace motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Jeff Bernetich. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Jeff Bernetich discussed ambulance response time. He inquired if Avon Fire could be supplied with EMS gear. Chief Appel is working on protocols now. EMS is not the intent of Fire Services. Fire Services are supplemental first responders.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Chief Evaluation - Only two people gave feedback. We need to have a process. We hope to send a survey out. Jamie DiPace, Mark Wilson and Laura Hendsey are working on creating a survey.
- There will be three seats open for the Board when the term ends on December 31, 2026. Jamie DiPace, Mark Wilson, and Steve Gwizdak. If you decide to stay, state your intentions to President Jamie DiPace. Steve Gwizdak will stay on but if someone else wants it that is good too.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT FROM TREASURER/ASSISTANT TREASURER:

- Month-end Report for FY25/26 - Corporation Funds -\$291,000 in account. Donations are strong. Income statement. \$65,000 for truck 16, it's a fixed asset. Expense depreciation for 10 years. Cash flow will show favorably. \$180,000 this year last year \$114,000.
- Fundraising Account - 501(C)(3) at Northwest Bank. Kristen Shaw will apply for a grant to get money.
- EB Trust Fund - It takes about 1 month to get it. Probate approved. \$130,000 value.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- Building Committee Update: Jim Speich
- Stipend Transition Status: Working Group- We have a lot of money in equipment. The number one thing we need is people. We need to invest in our people. Prove something works then institute it.
- Duty Shift Planning - We need people to go to calls.
- Scholarship - Budget \$4,000 Per Year - 1 Gift in Deputy Chief Theriault's Name - Amount to Be Determined - Continued
- AOG MEM-2c Revisions - Tabled

9. NEW BUSINESS

- LODD Monument Committee -tabled
- HVAC Repair Co. 2 \$5500.00 repair or \$15,500 to replace. Repairing may be the better solution. Dave Bernetich motioned to approve the repairs; Mark Wilson seconded. All approved;no opposed. Motion carried.
- ACH Payments - Northwest Bank does it. Better pricing and safer to use. The treasurer will move forward to get it established.
- Bank Signature approval for Mark Wilson
- Co3 \$250 request to fix up the garden front of station -Jennifer Rosado station #3 would like \$300.00 allotted to each station for beautification prior to the open houses. The other stations should work with station officers. Jeffrey Bernetich motioned to give the \$300 to station #3, David Bourgoin seconded the motion.All approved;no opposed. Motion carried.
- Update fundraising for 2026 Letter -Laura Hendsey to get in touch with Christina Adajian. Can we add 501(C)(3) to the letter.
- Bagpiper: for Dave Costill's service on Saturday, August 1, requested two hundred dollars. David Bourgoin made a motion to approve the funds; Nancy Crozier seconded. All approved;no opposed. Motion carried.

10. CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Report- if you have any questions, please email the Chief along with

President Jamie DiPace.

- Status of New Apparatus - Engine #7 bumper - Initially felt that it did not need a Mad Max bumper. However, it would take 10 weeks for the chrome bumper. We cannot have the truck out of service for 10 weeks. This was ½ price and available now.
- No damage to our new apparatus. The parts warehouse was impacted. There may be a delay because of this. They will let us know when it is ready.
- The Tanker had a blueprint on Facebook.

11. OTHER BUSINESS (PENDING ITEMS)

- Retired Members Status: Pending -Veteran Status. Currently we have Active, Resigned or Retired. We are working on trying to obtain a \$2000 tax abatement for life for active members with a minimum 25 years of service. The way the ordinance is written when one passes the spouse does not get the tax abatement. Tax abatement ordinance is by the state. The town agreed to give the tax abatement to out of towners by sending them a check..
- AOG Proposed Revisions: Pending
 - MEM-2e - Termination of Membership and Reinstatement

12. ADJOURN

8:47 p.m. Jeff Bernetich motioned to adjourn; seconded by Nancy Crozier. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes submitted By L. Hendsey, Board Clerk

Upcoming Corporation Meeting: Monday, August 10, 2026 is canceled. The next meeting Corporation meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2026

Upcoming Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, August 27, 2026