



POQUONNOCK BRIDGE FIRE DISTRICT

373 Long Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340
Phone: (860) 446-5997 Fax: (860) 445-2554

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes April 9, 2026

Present: President Ron Yuhas, Vice President Kevin Marquardt, Richard Marquardt, Al Luther, Randy Ackley, Clerk/Treasurer Susan Aguiar, Chief Rheame, Deputy Chief Lowell and Assistant District Administrator Wanda Morales

Absent: Members Jon Luther & Gale Goode

At 6:06 p.m. President Ron Yuhas announced the call to order with the time, date and place. Roll call was taken to establish a quorum. A moment of silence and a pledge to the flag followed.

Remarks from Visitors:

n/a

Approval of Previous Minutes:

MOTION: It was MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED to accept the meeting minutes of the March 12, 2026 meeting.

Reports and Communications:

Chief Rheame's report was submitted, read and accepted for the record. Deputy Chief Lowell's report was submitted, read and accepted for the record. Fire Marshal Bednarz's report was accepted for the record.

Old Business

- a. Bill 5253: Chief Rheame discussed Bill 5253, an act concerning voting procedures and state election enforcement oversight of the fire district. The bill seeks to require in-person voting and the use of paper ballots only. The Chief emphasized that it should not impact the department in its current form.

New Business

- a. Administrative Salaries: A motion was made by Kevin Marquardt and seconded by Randy Ackley to increase administrative salaries. The motion was passed unanimously.
- b. Approve FYE 2027 Budget: A motion was made by Kevin Marquardt and seconded by Susan Aguiar to approved the FYE 2027 Budget and bring it to the annual meeting for approval by the tax payers.

Executive Session

The board went into executive session to discuss the District Administrator's position at 6:23 pm and ended at 6:40 pm. Susan Aguiar made the motioned to accept Wanda Morales as the new District Administrator and Randy Ackley Second the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Good of the Department

- a. Chief Rheume informed the board that effective April 10, 2026 the price for diesel will increase to \$4.75 per gallon for the next three months. Fuel price will stabilize beginning July 1, as we enter the new fiscal year and secure new supply allocation.
- b. Deputy Chief Lowell participated in a 5K run with his daughter, where he unexpectedly encountered a 78-year-old woman whom the department had assisted during a previous incident. She expressed her sincere gratitude and appreciation for the team's support and later provided pizza for the crew as a thoughtful gesture.
- c. A deployment flag was purchased in support of Firefighter Michael Lindy's son, who was recently deployed.
- d. Letter read from The Ledges, thanking the PBFD for their response to an incident.

Presentation and payment of bills

Treasurer/Clerk Susan Aguiar announced that the bills to be paid for March 2026 in the amount of \$129,146.76 were accepted.

MOTION: At 7 PM it was MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED to adjourn. The annual meeting will be held on May 13, 2026 at 6 PM and the next regular meeting will be held on May 14, 2026 at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan M. Aguiar, Clerk
Poquonnock Bridge Fire District