

The Avon Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

994TH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Company 1,

25 Darling Drive, Avon, CT 06001 Meeting Hall

Thursday, April 23, 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. 9 voting Board Members: Assistant Treasurer Christina Adajian, Secretary Jeff Bernetich, Board Member Dave Bourgoin, Board Member Nancy Crozier, Board President Jamie DiPace, Treasurer Steve Gwizdak, Board Member Tom Post, Board Member Chip Carpenter, Vice President Mark Wilson; 1 non-voting Board Member Chief Bruce Appell; 1 Regular Member Bob Theriault.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MINUTES FROM PRECEDING MEETING(S):

- Regular Meeting March 2026: Dave Bourgoin motioned to approve minutes as submitted; seconded by Nancy Crozier. 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 mentioned the Explorer car drill, the AVFD family picnic on 7/19/2026 at Farmington Polo Grounds, 11:00 a.m. to 500 p.m. There was a poor AVFD turnout at last year's Yard Goats game; possibly combine with Simsbury fire to reach the minimum ticket number- 9/4/2026 evening game. Rules for Explorers need modifying. President DiPace inquired about a small bus purchase. EB Trust possible use: Mark Wilson mentioned deceased member memorials; Jamie DiPace mentioned member pay for lost job wages; Jamie DiPace and Jeff Bernetich mentioned scholarship funds. Town will repair Mack truck rear brake leak. Issue with member photos' timeframe.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Town Insurance request for information: Jamie DiPace will send an email to the membership.
- Chief Evaluation: Bruce Appell mentioned staying on as Chief. Jamie DiPace and Mark Wilson will work on the Chief's evaluation.
- Swearing in of new members – Notary: Chief Appell has addressed the issue.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT FROM TREASURER/ASSISTANT TREASURER:

- 3/23 meeting
- Month-end Report for FY25/26 – Corporation Funds
- Fundraising Account: surplus discussion.

- 501c3 status: achieved as of December 2025.
- EB Trust: the bank will close the account. The Board will determine expenditures.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- Building Committee Update - Jim Speich:
None
- Stipend Transition Status - Jeff Bernetich:
Bruce Appell stated the next step is to correlate the stipend plan to last year's figures. Jamie DiPace stated that the Town of Avon does not want AVFD members as employees.
- Scholarship - Budget \$4000 each year - 1 gift in Chief Theriault name - amount to be determined.
- 250th July 4th Independence event sponsorship: Jamie DiPace requested that the AVFD be named a sponsor for the event. The department is donating at least \$2,000-\$3,000 worth of services.
- AOG MEM-2c Revisions

9. NEW BUSINESS

- Bring in new members from other volunteer communities - Have other communities been spoken with and should they be?:
Background checks were mentioned. A question would be: why didn't you join your hometown fire department?
- Display of Pictures at stations

10. CHIEF'S REPORT:

Bruce Appell discussed his report.

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)
- Annual Performance Evaluation of Fire Chief: Pending

12. ADJOURN:

8:45 p.m. Christina Adajian motioned to adjourn; seconded by Nancy Crozier. All in favor; motion carried.

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

Upcoming Meeting: May 28, 2026, 7:00 p.m.