



918th AVFD CORPORATION MEETING

Monday, June 8, 2026

Corporate Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Company One Meeting Room

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Board President Jamie DiPace called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Member Brian Baldwin spoke in memoriam of Retired Member David Costill who passed away on June 3, 2026.

2. ATTENDANCE / INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

52 voting members; 7 non-voting members. There were no new members to introduce.

3. OATH OF OFFICE:

Officer oaths were taken for the following new ranks: Co. 3 Captain Michael Galliher; Co. 4 Lieutenant Garrett Long; Fire Police Lieutenant Jamison Appell.

4. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE

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

Member Diane Theriault and Explorer Member Jacob Theriault thanked everyone who participated in the Relay for Life and t-shirt sales fundraisers; approximately \$5,000.00 was raised. Board Member Tom Post announced that the AVFD Family Picnic will be held July 19, 2026, rain or shine, at the Farmington Polo Club, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

917th Corporation Meeting, May 11, 2026: Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by Member Tori Haskins; second by Captain Bobby Sanderson. All were in favor and the motion carried.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President DiPace stated that he had participated in several recent golf tournament fundraisers. He displayed photos of former Retired Member David Costill on large screen format for the membership, and spoke about him and his many contributions to the AVFD and community. He stated that members needed to increase their incident call response turn-out.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

8. FINANCIAL UPDATE:

None. Treasurer Steve Gwizdak was not present at the meeting to provide an update.

9. OFFICERS REPORTS:

Chief Bruce Appell praised the Relay for Life fundraiser member participation. The Coffee with the Chiefs community outreach project was going well. He discussed the finalization of plans for the 2026 250th American anniversary celebration events, which was well underway. The events will take place on Thompson Road in Avon, on Friday, June 26th, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., with a rain date of June 27th. Chief Appell thanked all members who continue to turn out for response to incident calls. Assistant Chief Joe Speich reported on various apparatus repairs and degrees of construction status. He also mentioned there will be SCBA testing next week. Deputy Chief Aaron Gelber reminded members of the upcoming extrication training. Captain Sanderson applauded Member Daniel Lake for achieving Firefighter I certification. Captain Mike Galliher thanked Captain Sanderson for maintaining Co. 3 in great shape, prior to Captain Galliher's promotion. He also applauded Members Gina Kline and Jenn Rosado for doing a great job at recent public fire education events. Captain Adriance Wright mentioned that she had donated a

treadmill to the AVFD and it was located at Co. 2. She applauded Member Ariel Mazara for achieving Firefighter I certification.

10. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Building Committee Updates (Town Rep): Member and Town Council Representative to AVFD Jim Speich discussed the public campaign to obtain support for the fire stations renovation project. A Town-produced news bulletin explaining the project, with enclosed questionnaire for the public to return, will be sent to the community in early autumn; the questionnaire return deadline will be October 9, 2026. The three renovation projects will cost approximately \$50,000,000.00. It would be the largest capital improvement project in Avon Town's history; with costs bonded over a 20-year period. Member Laura Ward, part of the AVFD Communications Group, announced metal wallet cards, that appear like business cards, were produced in large batch. Members can take cards to keep in their wallets. The purpose of the wallet card will be to provide quick-access talking points, show the AVFD web site, and also steer the public to the AVFD reno project web page via the card's QR code. Chief Appell mentioned that video production regarding the reno project will take place at the existing stations, and any member can participate in the videos. Board Member Post stated that all AVFD members should have unified messaging when discussing the reno project with the public.
- b. Communications Group Department Activities: Member Ben Shapiro stated that the American 250th anniversary celebration AVFD planning process is well underway.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

None.

12. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. History Presentation: Historian and Member Carol Baldwin briefly discussed the Swap Set Analysis technique used by some members decades ago to create the AVFD expense reimbursement points system in current use; one of those members in the analysis group was current Member and Town Rep Jim Speich.
- b. Welfare & Cheer: Member Chip Carpenter presented CT Fire Police Association awards to current AVFD Members who were in Fire Police positions each over 20-plus years. Award recipients were: Member Bob Theriault, Member Jay McCaffrey, Member Jack McGuire, and Member Dennis Bianchi.
- c. Attendance Drawing: money collection first; name drawn until a member who's present claims \$10.00 award. Winner: Member Michael Frost.
- d. Pot of Gold Drawing: remainder money from Attendance Drawing; name drawn once only; if no winner, money carried to next meeting's Pot of Gold. Winner: Member Laura Ward.

13. ADJOURN MEETING:

Motion to adjourn by Member Jack McGuire; second by Member Bob Theriault. All were in favor and motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Board Meeting: Thursday, June 25, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Corporation Meeting: Monday, July 13, 2026, 7:00 p.m.