

**EASTCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**SEPTEMBER 29, 2025**

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners held on Monday, September 29, 2025 at 11:00 AM, at Station 1 Fire Headquarters - 255 Main Street, Eastchester, NY 10709

**Board Members Present:**

Chairman Paul Ranellone  
Commissioner Anthony J. Lore  
Commissioner Luke Yankowski  
Commissioner Paul Carlo  
Commissioner Tony Cerasi

**In Attendance:**

Chief Brian Tween  
Secretary Marissa “Isang” Smith

**1. Call to Order**

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**1.1 - Meeting Called to Order**

The time is 11:00 AM. The September 29, 2025, Special Meeting of the Eastchester Board of Fire Commissioners is called to Order by Chairman Ranellone and unanimously agreed upon by the board.

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**2. Salute to the Flag**

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**3. Executive Session** - Chairman Ranellone made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss legal matters. The Board unanimously approved.

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**4. Public Session** - Chairman Ranellone made a motion to enter into Public Session at 12:00 PM. The Board unanimously approved.

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**5. New Business**

**5.1.** Resolution to establish three-minute public comments policy  
Chairman Ranellone read the following policy:

Resolution No. 9.1 - September 29 of 2025.

A Resolution of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Eastchester Fire District  
Establishing a Time Limit for Public Comment at Meetings

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Eastchester Fire District (the “Board”) recognizes the importance of public participation and values the input of residents and stakeholders during its meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Board seeks to ensure that meetings are conducted in an orderly, efficient, and respectful manner, allowing all interested parties a fair opportunity to be heard; and

WHEREAS, the Board is authorized under New York State law and the Open Meetings Law to adopt reasonable rules governing the conduct of its meetings, including the regulation of public comment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby establishes the following policy regarding public comment at all regular and special meetings of the Board:

1. Time Limit: Each individual wishing to speak during the public comment portion of a meeting shall be permitted to speak for a maximum of three (3) minutes.
2. Extension of Time: Any individual who wishes to speak for longer than three (3) minutes must request and receive prior approval from the Board of Fire Commissioners, which may be granted at the discretion of the Board.
3. Applicability: This policy shall apply to all members of the public, including residents, property owners, and other stakeholders, and shall be enforced in a viewpoint-neutral manner.
4. Implementation: The Chairperson or presiding officer of the meeting shall be responsible for enforcing this policy and may use a timer or other means to ensure compliance.
5. Effective Date: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 29 day of September, 2025, by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Eastchester Fire District.

VOTE: Motion by Chairman Ranellone, seconded by Commr. Yankowski

Aye: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Cerasi, Commr. Carlo, Commr. Ranellone

No: Commr. Lore

**Final: Motion Carried**

**5.2. Resolution to establish district property guidelines**  
Chairman Ranellone read the following policy:

WHEREAS, the Eastchester Fire District (the “District”) is a duly organized fire district governed by a Board of Fire Commissioners pursuant to the laws of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners (the “Board”) is responsible for the management, control, and oversight of all real and personal property owned by the District; and

WHEREAS, the District’s property, including but not limited to fire stations, apparatus, equipment, and other assets, is held for the benefit of the public and must be used in a manner consistent with the District’s mission and applicable laws; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to establish clear guidelines to ensure that any use of District property by volunteer fire companies or other entities is subject to appropriate oversight and authorization;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Eastchester Fire District as follows:

**Use of District Property:** No volunteer fire company, fire department, or any other organization or individual shall use, occupy, or access any property, equipment, or facilities owned by the District without the prior written approval of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

**Approval Process:** Any request for use of District property must be submitted in writing to the Board, specifying the nature, purpose, date, and duration of the proposed use. The Board shall review such requests at a duly convened meeting and may approve, deny, or conditionally approve the request in its sole discretion.

**Enforcement:** Unauthorized use of District property shall be deemed a violation of this Resolution and may result in disciplinary action, revocation of privileges, or other remedies as permitted by law.

**Effective Date:** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

VOTE: Motion by Chairman Ranellone, seconded by Commr. Carlo

Aye: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Cerasi, Commr. Carlo, Commr. Ranellone

No: Commr. Lore

**Final: Motion Carried**

- 5.3.** Discussion of the Chester Heights Gong: Chairman Ranellone stated that the gong would need to be removed from District property. Members of the public expressed concerns regarding insurance and liability. Ranellone noted that, based on advice of counsel, the District would remove the gong. Some public commenters suggested to secure the gong and add signage. The public was reminded by the Assistant Chief and several Board members to direct comments during the appropriate time. Chairman Ranellone then made a motion to remove the gong from District property.

VOTE: Motion by Chairman Ranellone, seconded by Commr. Carlo

Aye: Commr. Yankowski, Commr. Cerasi, Commr. Carlo, Commr. Ranellone

No: Commr. Lore

**Final: Motion Carried**

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**6. Comments from Local 916 - No comments**

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**7. Comments from the Public**

-Ray Rooney, Eastchester: Mr. Rooney initially requested an extension for his public comments. Commr. Carlo reminded him of the three-minute comment policy that was recently passed. Mr. Rooney distributed papers regarding a New York State program for volunteer firefighters, which provides a 10% tax reduction for eligible volunteers. Chief Tween shared that, while they had attempted to obtain rosters from volunteer companies, only three companies responded. Mr. Rooney suggested it is the duty of the District to compile a complete list of eligible volunteers. Chief Tween suggested certified mail could be sent to each company to obtain the information. Mr. Rooney requested clarification on the recently passed three-minute public comment resolution but was reminded by several board members that an extension must be requested and approved by the Board.

-Tom Visci, Tuckahoe, NY: Tom Visci inquired about the process regarding the Chester Heights Station gong, asking what actions the volunteers and the Board

would take moving forward. He expressed concern about materials he had purchased for the gong. Chairman Ranellone stated, based on advice of counsel, that the gong would be removed and that the District would not be responsible. Mr. Visci indicated he disagreed with the process and suggested the possibility of legal action. Commr. Cerasi advised against further comments due to Mr. Visci's comments regarding legal action.

**\*\* Public Comments – Mike Parici, 16 Lockwood Ave:**

Mike Parici inquired about children playing in the firehouse area and whether a firefighter would allow a child to use the bathroom. Commr. Carlo clarified that a child may be allowed if accompanied by an adult. Parici shared personal experiences, noting that Union Corners has always been a safe location during his 41 years living in the area. He recounted past practices, including how firefighters would be of assistance at times when their child was in the area. Parici expressed concerns about access to the second floor, and emphasized the importance of maintaining a safe and welcoming space for volunteers and the community. He encouraged the Board to consider these points as constructive feedback and positive guidance. Chief Tween added historical context on association access. Parici suggested that clear rules stated at Board meetings would benefit the public.

Mr. Rooney was granted an additional three minutes with Board approval. He expressed concern over the recent limitations on public comment, noting that previous meetings allowed greater participation. He stated that reducing speaking time to three minutes and restricting comments to a single topic limits public engagement and transparency. Mr. Rooney also expressed dismay that this special meeting was held in the firehouse training room without a video option, noting that the public would not be able to see everything that transpired at tonight's meeting. He added that such changes could create more negativity than intended.

Mr. Rooney compared the Board's policy to those of nearby municipalities, noting that the Village of Bronxville and the Town of Eastchester allow flexibility in their three-minute rule when comments are relevant. Mr. Rooney stated that he believes limiting discussion is a mistake.

He also raised concerns about the budget, particularly regarding salary allocations and the addition of eight members to the department. He mentioned ongoing building issues, including a leaking roof, and expressed frustration about what he described as inaction on needed repairs. Mr. Rooney commended Assistant Chief Bruce Yozzo for his work on prior projects and training initiatives but warned that continued public dissatisfaction may grow if his concerns are not addressed. He concluded by saying he felt the discussion had become personal and was disheartened.

Mr. Parici commented on the department's training drills conducted at Station 4, noting that residents often observe these activities and ask questions about what the department is doing. He explained that the firefighters are training and using equipment as part of their regular preparedness efforts. Mr. Parici praised the department's work and emphasized the importance of maintaining a positive public perception. He stated that he often provides feedback to residents and answers their questions about the department's operations and incident responses. Mr. Parici also noted that related information should be shared at public meetings to keep the community informed.

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## **8. Comments from the Commissioners**

Commissioner Lore asked Chief Tween how many lawsuits had been filed regarding the gong, stating that he did not recall any incidents involving a child climbing on or falling from it. Commr. Lore expressed that his heart is broken over the current situation involving the volunteers. He noted that the volunteer tradition dates back to 1894 and has been carried on through generations, with volunteers contributing greatly to the community. He added that he has been proud to see many volunteers transition into paid positions within the department.

Commr. Lore thanked Mr. Rooney for his involvement and expressed disappointment over recent developments and comments made by commissioners during the meeting. He stated that he always speaks openly and truthfully and hopes the situation will improve moving forward.

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## **9. Adjournment**

Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, Chairman Ranellone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

**EASTCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE EASTCHESTER BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2025**

Minutes prepared by:  
Marissa "Isang" Smith  
Secretary to the Board of Fire Commissioners