

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Meeting, February 17, 2016
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The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at the Chester Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Commissioners Joel Severance, Rick Schreiber, John Divis, Charlene Janecek and Peter Zanardi. Ex-Officio members present included Fire Chief James Schaefer, Fire Marshal Richard Leighton and Fire Investigator David Roberge. Chairman Severance called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Item 1: Approval of Minutes of January 20, 2016

Motion by Schreiber, second by Divis, to approve January 20, 2016 Minutes as written. Unanimously Approved.

Item 2: Audience of Citizens – none.

Item 3: Report of Fire Marshal

The Monthly Activity Report for January 2016 was distributed and reviewed. FM Leighton noted they did a lot of administrative work in January.

Chairman Severance asked about the status of the Dock Road boat fire. FM Leighton replied there are still loose ends to put together. They met last week with the State Fire Marshal. Things are progressing.

FM Leighton noted they are currently meeting and are attempting to reach a reasonable schedule to complete the necessary repairs to the automatic sprinkler system with both the sprinkler contractor and the property owners at 48 Railroad Avenue. The select sprinkler heads which were over 50 years old were sent for testing. Most of the heads tested will be required to be replaced. Only one of the sprinkler heads was not functioning as designed. The owners have agreed to change out the sprinkler heads that were also found to be painted. They are working with the Owner's contractors to also phase-in required compliance with some of the other major issues, at hand. A follow-up inspection will be scheduled, possibly next week. FI Roberge further noted, both of the Owners are working with us in developing an acceptable plan of action for the remaining issues. There still is a functional automatic sprinkler system at this location, overseen by P&J Sprinkler.

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Item 4: Report of Fire Chief

Fire Chief James Schaefer reported on the following -

- Took delivery of battery operated hearst tool (purchased through funds from the Hose Company), couple of drop tanks (donation to the Hose Company from an Estate) and a W tool used to push a door open and minimize damage to a house. The auto cribs and glass tools were about \$27,000.
- Still working to get numbers together to bill Eversource.

John Divis briefly reviewed a recent incident on Goose Hill Road regarding downed wires. He noted there should be a Safety Meeting to resolve these issues.

Item 5: Report of First Selectman

Selectwoman Janecek noted they will be working on the bridge project the next 3 Sundays in order to get the sidewalk open by middle of March. There is a fine if its not open by then.

Item 6: Report of Emergency Management Director

Joel Severance noted he and First Selectwoman Gister met with the Regional Coordinator and Coordinator of the Emergency Planning Grants. They keep changing the regulations and requirements and losing documentation.

Item 7: Financial Report

(a) 2015-2016 Budget

Fire Chief Schaefer noted overall everything is still on track. Spending a little more for supplies. Might go a little over on a couple of things but will try not to.

(b) 2015-2016 Fire Marshal Budget

FM Leighton noted its been busy and they will be going over budget this year. Can't cut back on anything. 75 percent of the contractor labor has been spent. All inspections are up this year. Last year there were 3-4 temporary liquor permits, this year its up to 14. There is a lot more on the FM's plate now than when they first came to Town. The boat fire was a small part of it. Commercial inspections are way up vs. number of hours for fire related stuff. We try to keep the fire trucks in the firehouse. The time sheets will show that the FM's don't even charge for a lot of stuff.

FM Leighton distributed and reviewed the following documents – Chester Fire Marshal's Office Five Year Activity Report for 2011 thru 2015 and the Two Year Labor Analysis Report for 2014 thru 2015. Leighton noted they have been here now since April 2011, 4.75 years. They average 51 hours in fires and 121 hours in fire inspections. Liquor permits are way up. They have also started to do a lot of preventative type things now too. FI Roberge noted plan reviews have dropped off due to a reduction in commercial construction.

FI Roberge noted there have been updates to the fire codes. The FM's are now involved with plan reviews for solar systems.

Chairman Severance asked about new legislation for sprinklers in 2 family dwellings. FM Leighton noted they don't inspect 1 or 2 family houses. That would fall back on the Building Official. Solar will probably be in the next code.

(c) 2016-2017 Budget

The proposed 2016-2017 Chester Hose Company Inc. Budget along with the 5 Year Outlook was distributed and reviewed by Chief Schaefer. He noted Outside Clerical is up \$500.00, Building Maintenance is up \$2,000, Equipment Maintenance is up \$4,000, Professional Development is up \$1000 and Supplies are up \$2,000. Chief Schaefer noted Firefighter 1 and EMT classes have gone up due to State funding being cut. A third of the Equipment Maintenance was spent this year on just one truck in order to be sure it is safe and will do the job for 20 years or more. As the trucks get older, maintenance costs go up. Building Maintenance and Supplies have increased. Outside Clerical was over budget last year so increased that to coverage any overage. There might be the possibility of having volunteers do meeting minutes. No decision has been made on that yet. The proposed 2016-2017 Budget is requesting a 2.91% increase.

Chief Schaefer also reviewed the proposed Capital Budget items – Ambulance Replacement, Apparatus Replacement, Chief's Car Replacement, Equipment Purchases, Fire House Repairs (new) and Parking Lot Project (new).

Motion by Divis, second by Schreiber, to approve 2016-2017 Chester Hose Company Operating Budget in the gross amount of \$321,965.00, net

amount of \$159,865.00. Unanimously Approved.

Motion by Schreiber, second by Zanardi, to approve Chester Hose Company Capital Budget for 2016-2017 for the following – Ambulance Replacement \$30,000., Apparatus Replacement \$50,000., Chief Car Replacement \$8,000., Equipment Purchases \$45,000., Firehouse Repairs \$10,000., and Parking Lot Project \$20,000. Unanimously Approved.

(d) 2016-2017 Fire Marshal Budget

The proposed 2016-2017 Fire Marshal Budget was distributed and reviewed. Outside Contractor and Supplies increased slightly for a total proposed budget of \$14,540.

Motion by Zanardi, second by Schreiber, to approve Fire Marshal Budget for 2016-2017 in the amount of \$14,540. Unanimously Approved.

Item 8: Old Business – none.

Item 9: New Business

The Public Works Crew was complimented for their excellent work during the recent storm.

Item 10: Adjournment

Motion by Zanardi, second by Schreiber, to adjourn at 8:55 PM. Unanimously Approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary