

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Meeting, June 15, 2016
Page 1 of 4

The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at the Chester Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Joel Severance, Rick Schreiber, Peter Zanardi and Bettie Perreault. Ex-officio members present included Fire Chief James Schaefer, First Lieutenant James Grzybowski and Fire Marshal Richard Leighton. Chairman Severance called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Item 1: Approval of Minutes of May 18, 2016

Motion by Schreiber, second by Zanardi, to approve May 18, 2016 Minutes as written. Unanimously Approved.

Item 2: Audience of Citizens – none.

Item 3: Report of Fire Marshal

A corrected Monthly Activity Report for April was distributed and reviewed as was the Monthly Activity Report for May. Fire Marshal Leighton reviewed monthly activities noting they kept activities this month to a minimum. June is a very busy month due to Liquor Permit renewals.

Fire Marshal Leighton reviewed his recent visit to L & E. Most of the violations have been corrected, some remain. They are working on the issue of the gas stove in front of the exit which was there when the Reids bought the business. Leighton reviewed a couple code violations on the second floor that are still being discussed. There is an issue with the sidewalk and the step riser to the second floor. The sidewalk is owned by the Town.

There was a brief discussion regarding a bridge at 8 Deep Hollow Road.

Fire Marshal Leighton noted he responded to an inside fire and smoke at Roto Frank. Leighton cited them with violations and inspected the rest of the factory.

Leighton noted inspections were done at the Brushmill, Clark House, Brian House, etc. Still working with Cheryl Reynolds on Railroad Avenue.

Leighton noted he inspected the water tanks at Aaron Manor. Due to erosion these tanks have to be repaired. They will be done one at a time with a

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Meeting, June 15, 2016
Page 2 of 4

standby 7500 gallon water tank outside at all times.

Item 4: Report of Fire Chief

Chief Schaefer noted firefighter competitions were held in Old Saybrook last Sunday. Chester came in 4th overall and 3rd in two events. Eight or nine towns participated. Bettie Perreault asked for the record to show congratulations to the Chester Hose Company for their successful events.

Chief Schaefer noted Hose Company Elections are coming up next month. He is willing to run again for another year.

Chief Schaefer noted not major issues, trucks running pretty well. There will be some power steering upgrades on the deuce and a half after July 1st. They are also looking at replacing Scot Air Packs for #2.

Chairman Severance asked how many medical calls there were today. Schaefer replied 5 or 6.

Item 5: Report of First Selectman – none.

Item 6: Report of Emergency Management Director

Chairman Severance reminded everyone there is a Functional Needs Table Top Exercise scheduled for June 29th at Town Hall at 3:00 PM.

Cell phone service at Town Hall was reviewed. Chairman Severance noted they lost radio communications last month with Region 2 at Town Hall and the Fire House. Andy Elwood will be coming in next week to see what the problem is. DEMHS says everything is normal. Severance noted they are putting the antenna outside the cupola. This has to be done this month if the grant is being closed out.

Severance passed along to Chief Schaefer the final version of ESF20, Port Security now called SR&R (Search, Rescue & Recovery).

Chairman Severance noted the AquaLens Camera with Strobe Lights was paid for with Grant money. A pole is needed to attach to it. Training is also required. The camera will go to 30 feet. There is a cable that will attach to a USB port or PC.

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Meeting, June 15, 2016
Page 3 of 4

Item 7: Financial Report
(a) 2015-2016 Budget

Fire Chief Schaefer noted the price of gas has dropped considerably. They have gone over in Professional Development due to people taking classes. Also gone over a little in Buildings and Equipment Maintenance.

(b) 2015-2016 Fire Marshal Budget

Fire Marshal Leighton noted he has informed both the BOS and BOF they will be over by about \$5000 in expenditures for mileage and labor. Nothing spent in training or supplies.

(c) 2016-2017 Budget

Chief Schaefer noted the 2016-17 budget passed. The power steering will be done in next year's budget. The Charger will go to the dealer to be checked out. They will buy Scot Packs with the Capital Budget and Equipment Replacement Maintenance money that was released at Town Meeting. Board of Finance did not start a new account for Fire House repairs. Money was put into the Town Buildings account for repairs.

Chairman Severance noted he received paperwork today regarding the \$33,000 the town is to get reimbursed from Hurricane Irene.

(d) 2016-2017 Fire Marshal Budget

Fire Marshal Leighton noted the 2016-17 Budget was approved.

Item 8: Old Business – none.

Item 9: New Business

Fire Marshal Leighton noted he sponsored Pete Torenze, Retired Colonel CT State Police to go through the Fire Marshal Academy. He will come to the next meeting. He brings another 30 years of experience and will be equal to Fire Marshals Leighton and Roberge.

Fire Chief Schaefer brought up safety issues having to do with the Triathlon held at Cedar Lake every year. There have been several complaints about people walking and riding in the middle of the road. Apparatus would never be able to get down the road if needed. Fire Marshal Leighton noted Camp Hazen also made a complaint. It was suggested either Chief Schaefer or Chairman Severance check with the Selectmen's Office to find out what

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Meeting, June 15, 2016
Page 4 of 4

organization is in charge of the Triathlon. There should then be a meeting between all involved (EMS personnel, Resident Trooper, First Selectwoman, Fire Marshal, etc.).

Chairman Severance noted he has been in touch with the chief engineer for the Main Street Bridge regarding bird spikes on the Ibeams under the bridge. DEEP won't let that work happen until after July 30th.

Item 10: Adjournment

Motion by Perreault, second by Zanardi, to adjourn at 8:30 PM.
Unanimously Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Brown".

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary