

The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 21, 2017, at the Chester Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Joel Severance, Peter Zanardi and Bettie Perreault. Ex-officio members present included Fire Chief James Schaefer, Deputy Chief James Grzybowski, Fire Marshal Richard Leighton, Fire Investigator Dave Roberge and Selectwoman Charlene Janecek. Chairman Severance called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Item 1: Approval of Minutes of May 17, 2017

**Motion by Perreault, second by Zanardi, to approve May 17, 2017 Minutes as written. Unanimously Approved.**

Item 2: Audience of Citizens

Vinny Germini, John Brainard and Ben Belisle were present, but did not offer any comments at this time.

Item 3: Report of Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Leighton distributed and reviewed the Monthly Activity Report for May 2017. He briefly reviewed the recent Hoarding Seminar. Selectwoman Janecek noted she attended the seminar and enjoyed it. She noted, however, that it would have been helpful if when the speaker gave an example, he followed up on talking about that example. Fire Investigator Roberge also reviewed the Seminar noting it gave an overview from every administrative function.

Item 4: Report of Fire Chief

Chief Schaefer noted Engine 2 had the modular repaired. A couple of valves needed fixing, as well as a couple of air leaks.

Item 5: Report of First Selectman

Selectwoman Janecek noted there was nothing to report. First Selectwoman Gister and John Divis were attending the public hearing in Haddam this evening regarding the water main installation on Route 154 from Denlar Drive to Haddam.

Item 6: Report of Emergency Management Director

Chairman Severance noted he reviewed a lot of things this morning with First Selectwoman Gister. They talked about the dams in town. DEEP sent out notice the Upper Jennings Pond Dam which was totally rebuilt 10 years ago was a high hazard dam. The dam behind the Mill Building was listed as no hazard but should be high hazard.

Chairman Severance reviewed the Emergency Management Planning Grant payments for 2014 and 2015.

Chairman Severance gave a copy of the Response Plan to a River Response to Chief Schaefer for his review. He asked Chief Schaefer to look at it, mark it up and return it to him. The Police and Coast Guard will also be reviewing it.

Chairman Severance noted Bill Hackett is now the current Deputy Commissioner under the Department of Public Safety and also maintaining his duties under Emergency Management.

Item 7: Financial Report  
(a) 2016-2017 Budget

Fire Chief Schaefer noted there would be probably another \$600 in smaller miscellaneous bills. Other than those small miscellaneous bills and clerical, he was not spending any more money. Deputy Chief Grzybowski noted some money can be transferred from Payroll to pay these outstanding bills. Chairman Severance noted the Chief has done a good job with the budget.

(b) 2016-2017 Fire Marshal Budget

Fire Marshal Leighton noted the FM Budget was right where they said it would be. They are at about \$4500 over and they had told the Board of Finance they would be about \$10,000 over.

(c) 2017-2018 Budget

Fire Chief Schaefer noted the 2017-2018 Budget passed with no changes. Capital got dropped as stated in previous meetings. Selectwoman Janecek noted everyone's Capital got dropped.

(d) 2017-2018 Fire Marshal Budget

Fire Marshal Leighton noted the 2017-2018 FM Budget passed.

Item 8: Old Business – none.

Item 9: New Business

Chief Schaefer advised the Board he will not be running as Chief for this coming year and was not available for any officer position. **Motion by Perreault, second by Zanardi, thanking Fire Chief James Schaefer for all his past years of service. Unanimously Approved.**

#### Triathlon Review

Fire Marshal Leighton noted he, Chief Schaefer and Trooper Ewing met with the principals of the Triathlon last month to review problems – too many people (180+ participants). They were told they had to go with less number of people. They were also told an ambulance and boat in the water were required and that was not negotiable. First Selectwoman Gister decided the participating number should be 90. FM Leighton noted he and the Chief were satisfied with putting the ambulance and boat there. Deputy Chief Grzybowski noted the use of the boat has already been justified as they had to monitor an individual closely at the last race. Leighton noted both he and FI Roberge were at the last race and it was pretty well organized with fewer participants and less spectators.

FI Roberge noted he did a safety evaluation of the entire operation. Having the Zodiac in the water is a critical asset and it has already proved its worthiness. It was noted the promoter does not have any accountability of that part of the program. They don't have an accurate count until people come out of the water and pass through the first check point. Someone could easily be lost, especially those in groups. One recommendation is to have a record keeping system down ahead of time. They should know how many people go in the water and how many people come out of the water.

FI Roberge reviewed the biking area and placement of cones. He noted rush hour traffic does not want to be impeded. They recommended putting an early warning device at a further distance point alerting oncoming traffic there is a road event, use caution, slow down east and west of Cedar Lake. Roberge further noted Region 2 has 4 message boards that are available for deployment. An asset request can be made to the proper individual for 2 boards. The boards can be stored at Public Works. In the event of a regional emergency, they can be returned. Deputy Chief Grzybowski noted the boards add another level of protection at no cost. The boards could say "Triathlon ahead, proceed with caution." Trooper Matt Ewing is on board with this as well. Selectwoman Janecek noted she suggested to First Selectwoman Gister doing an email blast as well as Facebook and Town website a couple days prior to the event.

Item 10: Adjournment

**Motion by Perreault, second by Zanardi, to adjourn at 8:15 PM. Unanimously Approved.**

Respectfully submitted,



Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary