

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Meeting, March 16, 2016
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The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, at the Chester Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester, CT. In attendance were Joel Severance, Rick Schreiber and Bettie Perreault. Ex-officio members present included Fire Chief James Schaefer, Fire Marshal Richard Leighton, Fire Investigator David Roberge and James Gryzbowski. Chairman Severance called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Schreiber, second by Perreault, to add the following agenda item to New Business, Discussion and Vote on VSAP. Unanimously Approved.

Item 1: Approval of Minutes of February 17, 2016

Motion by Schreiber, second by Severance, to approve February 17, 2016 Minutes as written. Unanimously Approved.

Chairman Severance welcomed new member Bettie Perreault to the BOFC.

Item 2: Audience of Citizens – none.

Item 3: Report of Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Leighton distributed and reviewed the Monthly Activity Report for February 2016. He explained this Report is a listing of what they do during the month, dates, times and various categories of how their time is spent. Most time is spent on commercial inspections and liquor permits.

Leighton noted a lot of time has been spent on investigating the Dock Road boat fire. They are still working with the State on this matter. He also noted they continue to work with the owners of the Chester House.

Fire Investigator Roberge noted there has been a change of cuisines at the Good Elephant. They are contemplating an operational revision to the restaurant complex. That location has a laundry list of violations at various levels. A lot of time has been spent on code review, correspondence, documentation, etc. He met with them today. They have 90 days to get everything done. Roberge noted the stairs to the second floor requires a second handrail. There is also a power cord running down the staircase to power the refrigerator upstairs. Their liquor

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renewal certifications have been issued.

Fire Investigator Roberge noted Chief Schaefer should check with the Synagogue for the reset codes and they should be posted inside the panel.

Item 4: Report of Fire Chief

Fire Chief Schaefer noted he met with the E Team and will be meeting with Peter Harding regarding solar panels, replacement windows and new boiler system for the Fire House. There are funds left over from the roof. They were told the boiler system would be about \$60,000. The E Team said they would have to do more than just the boiler to get a loan. Maybe add solar panels.

Chief Schaefer noted they used the new Hearst Tool in a recent accident at Routes 145/148. The person was out of the car within a half hour of the call. With the old equipment, it would have been much longer.

Chief Schaefer noted they had the ambulance inspections today. The first one passed, but the second one failed with only minor things. The State of Connecticut does these inspections every couple of years.

Item 5: Report of First Selectman – none.

Item 6: Report of Emergency Management Director

Emergency Management Director Severance reported on the following -

- Having a meeting tomorrow afternoon regarding disbursement of equipment for CERT teams.
- Have a date for certification for volunteers for traffic management.
- Still working trying to get together with Eversource to review incident that occurred back in February.
- Asked Chief Schaefer if he got the paperwork done for reimbursement. Schaefer replied yes.
- Briefly reviewed CRS (Community Rating Service). If towns participate they get 5% discount.

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

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Fire Chief Schaefer noted everything is going smoothly and on track. Have not received bill yet for Ford Ambulance for lights repair. They will try to stay under budget.

(b) 2015-2016 Fire Marshal Budget

Fire Marshal Leighton noted he advised the First Selectwoman this year's budget will be over by about \$3000-\$4000 due to the boat fire. February was busy. Inspections will be starting this month. There is currently \$4,710 left.

(c) 2016-2017 Budget

Fire Chief Schaefer noted the Board of Finance just got their Budget Books so everything has been pushed back a week. The Hose Company will go to the Budget Workshop on March 23rd. There will be a budget presentation by Chief Schaefer and Resident Trooper Ewing. The budget meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

(d) 2016-2017 Fire Marshal Budget

Fire Marshal Leighton noted there is nothing new and this budget will not change.

Item 8: Old Business – none.

Item 9: New Business

(a) VSAP

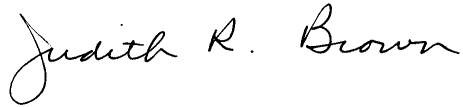
James Gryzbowski noted the revised Plan went through review by the Retirement Board and that Board recommended it to the Selectmen. The Plan jumps from \$250.00 per month to \$275.00 per month. The Retirement Board recommended putting \$5000 back into the budget instead of doing a tiered system. Gryzbowski also noted he reviewed the Plan with First Selectwoman Gister who indicated the Town Attorney has reviewed the Plan and was happy with it (except for a few grammatical things). Legally the Plan was fine as drafted. The “volunteer” definition was reviewed. Gryzbowski noted the Hose Company members approved the Plan has changed from \$250 to \$275. He was asking the BOFC to approve this tonight so it can be in the hands of the Selectmen for tomorrow night's meeting. The Plan needs BOFC's approval before it can go to Town Meeting on March 30th. Gryzbowski noted the point system stays with the Hose Company. **Motion by Schreiber, second by Perreault, to approve revised VSAP and send to Town Meeting. Unanimously Approved.**

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Item 10: Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary