

The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held its regular meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at the Chester Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Joel Severance, Rick Schreiber, John Divis, Peter Zanardi, Bettie Perreault. Ex-officio members present included Fire Chief James Schaefer, Deputy Fire Chief James Grzybowski, Fire Marshal Richard Leighton, Fire Investigator David Roberge, Selectwoman Charlene Janecek. Chairman Severance called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Item 1: Approval of Minutes of April 19, 2017

**Motion by Schreiber, second by Perreault, to approve April 19, 2017 Minutes as written. Unanimously Approved.**

Item 2: Audience of Citizens

Vinny Germini was present, but offered no comment.

Item 3: Report of Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Leighton distributed and reviewed the Monthly Activity Report for April 2017.

Bettie Perreault asked if there had been any resolution on the Triathlon. FM Leighton noted as of this moment there is no D.O.T. road permit. Selectwoman Janecek noted as of noon today they will be allowed to do it if they get a road permit, its limited to 90 people, they pay for an ambulance on site and there are no conflicts with events at Cedar Lake. The ambulance cost is \$125.00 an hour. They also have to pay for police coverage and submit proof of certification for the lifeguards. FM Leighton noted there also was discussion at that meeting about having emergency people in the water and a lengthy discussion about the bicycles. Selectwoman Janecek noted if they can't meet all the criteria, that can't have it.

Item 4: Report of Fire Chief

Chief Schaefer noted things are pretty quiet. Engine 2 had the module changed. Selectwoman Janecek noted the leak was fixed on the deuce and a half, but they didn't fix the second leak. Chief Schaefer noted the guy came in to fix it, but didn't have enough time. John Divis noted the leak is not a big deal. Its a crack along the seam and will eventually be fixed.

Item 5: Report of First Selectman

Selectwoman Janecek noted she already gave her report on the Triathlon.

Item 6: Report of Emergency Management Director

Chairman Severance reported on the dredging for the mouth of Chester Creek. He noted he has been working on the River Response Plan 4 to 5 hours a day. He has been in touch with the Response Coordinator from the Coast Guard who will be reviewing the Plan. Severance also noted the D.O.T. has thrown responsibility for the Harbor Masters over to DEEP with no personnel or funding. DEEP has finally gone to Finance to have the funding the D.O.T. had for this transferred over to them.

Chairman Severance noted yesterday he signed off on the WiFi extension for the E.O.C. at Town Hall so that everyone will have access regardless of carrier. That work has to be done by the end of the month.

Item 7: Financial Report

(a) 2016-2017 Budget

Chief Schaefer distributed copies of the current budget. He noted everything is on hold unless its a safety matter or we can't operate without it. Bettie Perreault noted the proposed budget for the Fire Department was different than what was in the newspaper. Chief Schaefer noted he will take a look at it to see where the difference is.

(b) 2016-2017 Fire Marshal Budget

FM Leighton noted their budget is the same as last month. They have about a \$5000 deficit which will probably be about \$10,000 by the end of June.

(c) 2017-2018 Budget – nothing further to report.

(d) 2017-2018 Fire Marshal Budget – nothing further to report.

Item 8: Old Business – none.

Item 9: New Business

FM's Leighton and Roberge noted they had an inquiry about Bed & Breakfasts in Chester and whether there were any regulations pertaining to B&B's. FI Roberge noted there are B&B's in town actively advertising and off the radar. There are about 6 to 8 Airbnb's in Chester being advertised on the internet. FM's distributed two documents pertaining to B&B's – Bed & Breakfast Establishments Overview and Bed

& Breakfast Applicable Codes. FI Roberge reviewed the definition of a B&B. Selectwoman Janecek asked if B&B's had to have food service licenses. FI Roberge noted the goal is to locate these B&B's, identify the owners. FM Leighton noted they will then get a letter indicating they need to contact the FM's to schedule an inspection within 30 days. FM Leighton reviewed some of the State Codes for B&B's. The code says B&B's cannot be in a commercial occupancy. FM Leighton and Roberge urged the BOFC members to read the literature handed out.

Chairman Severance noted they received a Notice of Violation because they haven't submitted the Emergency Operation Plan for Dam #1605 (Jennings Pond Dam). It was noted the Town Engineer has all the information on the Town Dams.

FI Roberge noted he and FM Leighton attended a recent air quality class. He briefly reviewed monitoring of air quality at a fire scene. Chief Schaefer will see if he can get a module for their monitoring equipment.

FI Roberge noted ConnOsha does a monthly newsletter on how to protect employees in the workforce. They recently did a 4 page article on tick exposure. They are making municipalities aware that people who work outdoors have a risk of being infected by ticks. It was suggested perhaps the Town should revisit the Health and Safety Plans regarding tick exposure. Chairman Severance should forward the link to this ConnOsha article to the rest of the Board members.

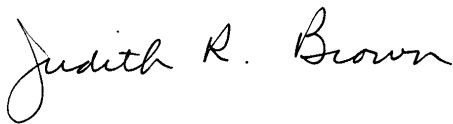
ZCO Brown gave a brief update on the clean up at 10 Prospect Street which is progressing.

Item 10: Adjournment

**Motion by Perreault, second by Schreiber, to adjourn at 8:40 PM.**

**Unanimously Approved.**

Respectfully submitted,



Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary