

The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 20, 2017, 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 John Brainerd, Asst. Chief Kim Brainerd, Fire Marshal Richard Leighton, Fire Investigator David Roberge, Selectwoman Charlene Janecek and Treasurer Ben Belisle. Chairman Severance called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Item 1: Approval of Minutes of July 19, 2017
Motion by Schreiber, second by Zanardi, to approve July 19, 2017 Minutes as written. Approved with Perreault abstaining.

Item 2: Audience of Citizens - none.

Item 3: Report of Fire Marshal
Fire Marshal Leighton distributed and reviewed the Monthly Activity Report for July. He noted there was a meeting on 8/22/17 with the Liquor Commission and the principals of L&E Restaurant for the Good Elephant. In the last week, the principals have decided to close L&E Restaurant and keep The Good Elephant upstairs. They will be selling off their antiques. FM Leighton noted August is usually a busy month, with July and September not too bad.

Item 4: Report of Fire Chief
Fire Chief Brainerd noted Engine 2 again had to have the air tanks fixed. The Polaris went out for updated service. Right now it is at the Durham Fair Grounds, will return Sunday night. The ambulance has been getting out more, along with some mutual aid calls.

Item 5: Report of First Selectman
Selectwoman Janecek noted she had nothing to report.

Item 6: Report of Emergency Management Director
Chairman Severance noted we need to start worrying about Hurricane Maria. A Storm Readiness was held. He thanked all who participated.

Chairman Severance noted the Emergency Operations Plan is now on the Town Server for anyone who would like to download and look at it. He also noted the EMPG is requiring 4 exercises.

Chairman Severance noted relative to Fire Department management issues, the Board of Selectmen has assumed responsibility to work things out. The BOFC has nothing to do with this.

Item 7: Financial Report

(a) 2016-2017 Budget

It was noted the prior administration overspent the budget by \$26,000. The new administration was in the hole by \$26,000 before it even started. There were some items in there that really should have been discussed rather than getting blindsided. The Board of Finance disallowed those items. Chairman Severance noted for the record this will not happen again. Chief Brainerd noted that being said, this was a common practice from year to year for several years.

Chief Brainerd noted former Chief Schaefer had told the part time paid staff they could do 30 hours a week. That was not true. He will be discussing this with the paid staff within the next week. They can do anything under 30 hours. There is also one member who has almost 1000 hours which involves the Pension. That will be stopped immediately. Chief Brainerd noted they will all be working together to get this straightened out.

(b) 2017-2018 Budget

There was a brief discussion regarding the Data Processing line item which was already a negative number. Asst. Chief Brainerd noted she will look back and see what's going on with this item. Last year it was under Equipment Maintenance and that had to be corrected. Bettie Perreault noted it is probably safe to say it had been misallocated in the budgeting process.

(c) 2017-2018 Fire Marshal Budget

Fire Marshal Leighton noted the FM Budget will start out as a negative because the Outside Contractor is already \$6000 shy. The deficit of \$6000 is based on activity of last year. They

spent \$23,000 last year. FM Leighton noted they also requested a line item of \$100 for Hoarding which is not in the budget. Selectwoman Janecek noted she thought that was in the Social Services budget. She will check on that.

FM Leighton wanted the BOFC to acknowledge they are over budget and making sure the Commission is aware they are already in a deficit.

Bettie Perreault noted for the record that based on the just distributed and reviewed budget, the FM is notifying the Board of a potential shortfall in their budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Item 8: Old Business - none.

Item 9: New Business

Fire Investigator Roberge noted the FM's received an email from Chairman Severance over the weekend asking if a permit was needed for fireworks. FI Roberge noted if it flies in the air or if it explodes, those are permitted fireworks for commercial use only. They are not consumer fireworks.

Fireworks are illegal unless controlled by a licensed shooter in the State of Connecticut. The process is very extensive. There needs to be a site inspection of the location, size of shells proposed to shoot, distance requirement from spectators, requirement for insurance, among several other requirements for transport and display of fireworks. Anything outside of that is punishable by the Courts.

FI Roberge reviewed requirements for the day of the shoot including the requirement the Fire Department must be on the scene from when the fireworks arrive on the scene until the last shot is launched. On private shoots, this requires a donation to this organization. Before anything is shot off, the FM must do an inspection and verify the licensing of the shooters. This is a very drawn out requirement. The reason for this is because there have been a lot of fireworks accidents in the past.

Chairman Severance noted his pool was full of paper and

fireworks shells this past weekend. FI Roberge noted when someone discovers this, they should notify the FM's so they can do an inspection. They have a right inspect the site location, the fireworks, licensing of the shooter, how the fireworks was transported, etc. The individuals are at risk of being arrested for multiple charges, transporting hazardous materials, possession of illegal fireworks in the State of Connecticut, doing a display without proper permitting and face confiscation of fireworks and removal from the location. This starts with the local FM Office, then goes to the State FM Office and then to the State Police.

FI Roberge noted the last time he did one of these, it cost the illegal owner about \$28,000 and two individuals were arrested and had to go to Court.

Chairman Severance noted the State Police were notified of this activity at 18 E. Liberty this past weekend, but they didn't contact the Fire Marshal.

FI Roberge reiterated any individual or organization should contact the Fire Marshal's Office as soon as possible as to an intensive operation.

FI Roberge noted he will prepare a draft PSA for the BOFC's November meeting. The Commission can review and provide comment at that time.

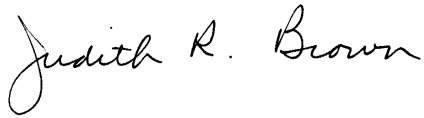
Fire Marshal Leighton noted they have been doing a lot of work relative to Hoarding. They will do a presentation on Hoarding at the next meeting relative to 27 Ridge Road where 7 individuals were living in a house. FI Roberge noted they dealt with this on cost, dignity and results.

Fire Investigator Roberge noted they are working with the Hose Company to set up an agreeable date to go to Chester Village West to review their fire sprinkler and alarm system. FM Leighton noted they do annual training on sprinkler systems. This is being coordinated with the Chester Hose Company and Chester Village West.

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Meeting, September 20, 2017
Page 5 of 5

Item 10: Adjournment
Motion by Schreiber, second by Zanardi, to adjourn at 8:25
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