The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, at the Chester Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Joel Severance, Richard Schreiber and Charlene Janecek. Ex-Officio Members present included Fire Chief Charles Greeney, Jr., Deputy Chief James Grzybowski, Fire Marshal Richard Leighton, Fire Investigator David Roberge and First Selectman Ed Meehan. Chairman Severance called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Item 1: Approval of Minutes of April 16, 2014

Item 2: Audience of Citizens – none.

Item 3: Report of Fire Marshal
Fire Marshal Leighton distributed April and May Monthly Activity Reports. He reviewed the following items –

Status of 6 Main Street Plan Review.
He noted the Town businesses are coming up to what is expected as far as fire codes.

He spoke to the owner at 4 Water Street about securing the propane tank.

The liquor permit for the Chester Fair was signed.

An inspection was done at Norma Terris. They will only have one show this year in August. The garments will be all out by the end of August. Once all garments are gone, the Fire Department will be able to go through the building to see what is there.

An inspection of the Farmer's Market will take place on Sunday.

St. Joseph's Church will be having a carnival in July.

He reviewed Chesterfield's codes.

Still working with the Guest House. The modifications should be ready next month to go to the State.

They will start working on 48 Railroad Avenue next month.
Fire Investigator Roberge reported on the following -

St. Joseph’s Church will be holding a carnival on July 24-26 and a circus on July 1.

The Annual Chester Fair will be in August.

He reported according to State Statutes the municipality has the option to charge for services for inspections. The Agricultural Association is aware of this. The fees can be waived. First Selectman Meehan stated no one has asked for waiver of fees. It was noted there should be a standby crew from the Fire Department for the circus. It should consist of 4 men and a driver for the truck. The Town will have to provide police presence which is also a billable item. Fire Investigator Roberge is in touch with the State Fire Marshal's Office regarding these matters.

Item 4: Report of Fire Chief

Chief Greeney noted the boat is in the water, waiting for a piece of hose. He reviewed the recent brush fire in Lyme. Everything else looks to be in good shape.

Chief Greeney noted elections are coming up and there will be a new Fire Chief. He has been an officer for 32 years and a Chief for 17 years. Chief Greeney thanked the Fire Commissioners for all their support and cooperation during those years, as well as the back up of Fire Marshal Leighton, Fire Investigator Roberge and First Selectman Meehan.

Chief Greeney noted the Zoning Commission has given permission to go ahead with the additional parking lot.

Chairman Severance thanked Chief Greeney for all his years of service to the Town. He complemented him on the way he manages and maintains his cool during very difficult circumstances.

It was noted that because of the new By-Law change, the new Chief will not be known until the Chester Hose Company July meeting. Deputy Chief Grzybowski is on the slate for the position. Chairman Severance noted he has seen Deputy Chief Grzybowski in action. He maintains his cool under pressure with high ranking authorities.

Chairman Severance once again thanked Chief Greeney for his many years of service. Severance will prepare a letter to be sent from the Board of Fire Commissioners.
Item 5: Report of First Selectman

First Selectman Meehan noted the Board of Selectmen thank Chief Greeney for his many years of service. He will be missed.

First Selectman Meehan thanked the Chester Hose Company for participating in the Memorial Day Parade. It allows the community an opportunity to see what fire equipment the Hose Company and the Town have which is a positive thing.

First Selectman Meehan noted the Hose Company and Fire Marshal's budgets are looking good. The Fire Marshal's budget is a little over in Outside Contractor, but there are funds left in Payroll which can be transferred.

Chief Greeney reviewed a couple of equipment repairs, work on the parking lot, redoing the roof on the building. An energy grant was received a couple years ago to finish some of these things.

Item 6: Report of Emergency Management Director

Chairman Severance reviewed the State mandated Emergency Exercise scheduled for Monday, June 23, 2014. The Exercise will be held at the Emergency Operations Center at Chester Town Hall, Community Room, starting at 10:00 AM and ending at 2:30 PM. The Exercise consists of identification of people with functional needs. Severance noted a list of functional needs people is maintained by Valley Shore and Rosie Bininger, Human Services Director. He reviewed what would occur on that day which would include an impending hurricane.

Chairman Severance noted there is a State Emergency Management Association meeting coming up. Still don't have the Emergency Management Plan Grant, the contract took effect October 2013 and runs until the end of October 2014. There is funding to update the Emergency Operations Plan. The State has a committee working on a template for the Towns. This is probably going to take about 6 months to do.

Chairman Severance noted he is working with New Haven and Old Saybrook on marine rescue and research regarding drones and underwater units. He suggested a drone be purchased for use by the Town.

Item 7: Financial Report

(a) 2013-2014 Budget
(b) 2013-2014 Fire Marshal Budget
(c) 2014-2015 Budget
(d) 2014-2015 Fire Marshal Budget
Financials were covered earlier in the meeting under First Selectman's Report.

Item 8: Old Business – none.


Item 10: Adjournment
Motion by Schreiber, second by Janecek, to adjourn at 8:35 PM. Voting in favor – Schreiber, Janecek, Severance. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary