

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes, July 18, 2018
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The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at the Chester Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Bettie Perreault, Rick Schreiber, Peter Zanardi, and John Divis. Ex-officio members present were Fire Chief John Brainard, Selectman Charlene Janacek and Fire Marshals Richard Leighton and David Roberge. Also present were Deputy Chief James Grzybowski, Assistant Chief Charles Greeney, Assistant EMS Chief Sara Blaschik, Battalion Chief Kim Brainard, Captain Dylan Grzybowski, and Medical Coordinator Scot Mills. Because Hose Company officers were participating in another meeting within the building, the start of the Commissioners' meeting was delayed. Chairman Perreault called the meeting to order at 7:56 P.M. In the absence of Judy Brown, Bettie Perreault provides minutes.

Item 2: Audience of Citizens

Members of the Chester Hose Company elected in the Department's annual election were welcomed and introduced to the Commission. Commission members thanked those present for their service and dedication to the Department, and invited them to continue to attend Commission meetings.

Item 3: Report of Board of Selectmen

Selectman Janacek advised there was nothing to report at this time.

Item 4: Report of Fire Chief

Chief Brainard reported that the majority of the work associated with installation of the new boiler is completed; floor heating remains to be finished. Engine #1 is currently having maintenance work done. Three new personnel will begin with the Ambulance as soon as all required paperwork and testing is completed. Chester Ambulances and personnel will be in Deep River for the annual Muster; Deep River vehicles are out of service at this time. Incident Report for the month of June showed a total of 60 Rescue and Emergency Medical Service Incidents, and a total of 11 other types of calls during the month. Total calls for the year (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018) showed a total of 652 calls responded to, with the majority of them being EMS calls. A similar annual report of Mutual Aid calls, both given and received, showed 154 calls where the Chester department provided or received mutual aid assistance.

Item 5: Report of Fire Marshal

Activity report for the month of June 2018 was distributed and discussed.

Item 6: Report of Emergency Management

No report was available.

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Item 7: Financial Reports

(a) 2017 - 2018 Budget – Fire Department

Copies of the budget were distributed and reviewed. Chief Brainard and Deputy Chief Grzybowski advised that because of lower expenditures as a result of fewer available EMS personnel and other cost-savings measures during the just-ended fiscal year, the Department would be returning approximately \$8,000 of unexpended funds to the Town once all expenses associated with the 2017-2018 fiscal year had been paid. The Department will continue its close control of expenditures to stay within budget items for the coming year.

(b) 2017 – 2018 Budget – Fire Marshal

Copies of the budget were distributed and reviewed. It was noted that over-expenditures were anticipated and officials kept advised throughout the fiscal year.

(c) 2018 – 2019 Fire Department Budget

There was nothing to report at this time.

(d) 2018 – 2019 Fire Marshal Budget

There was nothing to report at this time.

Item 8: Old Business

Reports and Status of Events

(a) Sunday Market

Fire Marshal continues to monitor the event, working with the individual food and other vendors to ensure safety and compliance. Parking has been an issue. With no single point of contact for the Sunday Market, officials have had to address situations as they arose.

(b) Triathlon

Department personnel, police and fire marshal officials monitor each event. The event organizer has improved organizational handling of the event and is now able to provide a head count of participants of the various segments of the event. Traffic issues remain an on-going concern and it is anticipated that better signage will be available for the event in the coming year. Parking is an issue, with Fire Police helping other on-site police officials. The sight line at the intersection of Routes 148 and 145 is a problem for the bicycle segment of the race; both roads are maintained by CT DOT so local maintenance has not been involved.

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(c) Other

Captain Dylan Grzybowski reported Department members had met with Dave Roberge of the Lyme Fire Department to review its installation of a water supply in the town of Lyme. A proposal to install a water supply facility in the Cedar Lake area was discussed at the June meeting. Based on information gained, Department members are now gathering demographic and Grant information. Further input will be needed from other local agencies. Note was made that some, if not all of the process involved in such an installation may not require an extensive review/approval process although keeping all appropriate agencies advised will be important. Selectman Janecek agreed that the Board of Selectmen would be the appropriate venue to ensure that all appropriate boards and commissions are included in the process.

Item 9: New Business

On motion by Rick Schreiber, seconded by Peter Zanardi it was unanimously approved to add to this item on the Agenda: to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Joel Severance and to name a replacement Commissioner to the Board.

At the request of Peter Zanardi, the matter will be placed on the Agenda for the August 15 meeting for action and vote.

Item 10: Approval of Minutes of June 20, 2018

Motion by John Divis second by Rick Schreiber, to approve the June 20, 2018 Minutes. Unanimously approved. Perreault abstained.

Item 11: Adjournment

Motion by Peter Zanardi, second by John Divis to adjourn at 8:40 P.M. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Bettie Perreault

Chairman