

**Chester Board of Fire Commissioners**  
**Minutes, August 15, 2018**  
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The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 15, 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 (who arrived at 8:04 P.M.) and Fire Marshal Richard Leighton. Also present were Deputy Chief James Grzybowski, Assistant Chief Charles Greeney, EMS Chief Jim Schaffer, Battalion Chief Kim Brainard, Trustee Vincent Germini and Bob Bandzes. Chairman Bettie Perreault called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Item 1: Approval of Minutes of July 19, 2018

**On motion by Peter Zanardi, seconded by Rick Schreiber the minutes of the July 19, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved as written. Perreault abstained.**

Item 2: Audience of Citizens

Trustee Vin Germini reported on progress being made in connection with a proposal to install a water supply access point at Cedar Lake, providing a Right of Way Map prepared for the CT State Highway Department for discussion. Accurate location of the property line between State-owned property and Town of Chester property needs to be determined. Further investigation will be required to identify best site for such an installation. Actual conditions existing within Cedar Lake to accommodate required piping and other infrastructure will need to be confirmed to determine the details of design, construction and cost. Similar installations in other communities will be reviewed for information on construction and operation. As details are learned, the Commission will be kept advised.

Item 3: Report of Board of Selectmen

Selectman Janacek arrived later in the meeting and contributed to discussions of other matters.

Item 4: Report of Fire Chief

Chief Brainard reported that Truck #1 is currently out of service and at Superior Spring having new springs installed. Ambulance #1 will also be put out of service to allow a number of items to be taken care of. An issue concerning work perceived to be under warranty needs to be addressed in connection with some needed work on this vehicle.

Newly hired personnel for Ambulance duty have begun filling in needed shifts. Should a full crew not be available, on-duty personnel will use an alternative vehicle to respond. With approximately ten part-time or per diem personnel currently available, additional applicants are potentially available for interviews, which would enable additional personnel to be scheduled to fill needed time slots.

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Item 5: Report of Fire Marshal

Activity report for the month of July 2018 was distributed and discussed. Fire Marshal Leighton reported on recent inter-agency activities connected with remedial work at Aaron Manor; the construction of second-story space over existing offices at Masonicare at Chester Village West; the opening of The Brewery on Main Street, and measures that have been taken to address parking issues associated with performances at The Norma Terris Theater. He advised the Triathlon group is looking to hold an additional event this year, tentatively in September, but must coordinate with local safety officials first. Based on experiences during recent Triathlon events, additional fire police and other safety personnel will be necessary to address parking and pedestrian safety issues.

Item 6: Report of Emergency Management

No report was available.

Item 7: Financial Reports

(a) 2018 - 2019 Budget – Fire Department

Copies of the budget were distributed and reviewed. Chief Brainard called on Deputy Chief Grzybowski for the report. Work associated with the installation of the new boiler was discussed with note that the new equipment functions at a lower temperature, which may affect the chimney flue. Installation of a liner may need to be made to prevent damage. During a recent boat emergency, responding departments needed to use containment booms, resulting in a cost to the Town of approximately \$4,000. It is anticipated that the boat owner's insurance will reimburse the Town for this expense.

(b) 2018 – 2019 Budget – Fire Marshal

There was nothing to report at this time as no expenditures have yet been made. New Codes are scheduled for release in October and these costs will be reflected in later monthly reports.

Item 8: Old Business

Reports and Status of Events

(a) Sunday Market

Parking issues continue to be an issue. On a recent Sunday, Ambulance responders were unable to quickly enter the market area to reach a patient and there was no police personnel present to assist. As this is a serious safety concern, the Commission

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will send a letter to the Board of Selectmen advising of these concerns and seeking actions to ensure that responding public safety personnel can quickly and safely reach patients.

(b) Triathlon

Activities associated with this event were addressed earlier in the meeting during the Fire Marshal's report.

(c) Other

Selectman Janecek advised that following recent test marking of parking spaces on Main Street in connection with the Main Street Project, it was determined that existing spaces will remain basically unchanged. One handicap parking space will be eliminated and walk areas expanded. It was noted by several that pedestrians tend to ignore vehicular traffic and not use designated crossings, creating hazardous conditions for pedestrians as well as vehicles.

Item 9: New Business

Robert Bandzes was introduced, with note of his willingness to serve on this Commission to fill the vacant term extending to November 19, 2019. He reviewed his years of background with Fire Departments in Cromwell and Middlefield, prior to moving to Chester approximately six years ago, as well as his current employment.

**On motion by Rick Schreiber, seconded by John Divis, Robert Bandzes was unanimously approved to serve on the Board of Fire Commissioners to fill the vacancy extending to November 19, 2019.**

*NOTE: CT State Statutes Section 9-220 requires that Boards of Selectmen make all appointments, thus over-riding the Chester Ordinance. The Board of Selectmen has been requested to appoint Robert Bandzes to the Board of Fire Commissioners in ratification of the Commission's actions.*

Rick Schreiber noted the recent passing of John Olson and the many contributions he, personally, and Whelen Engineering have made to the Chester Hose Company over the decades. Through the services of the many Whelen employees, providing equipment and vehicles, and the support of other Chester activities, the community has been very fortunate. On behalf of the Board of Fire Commissioners and the support of the Chester Hose Company, condolences and sympathy are extended to the Olson Family and others. The Board of Selectmen will also be asked to extend the Town's appreciation for Olson's generosity and support.

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Item 10: Adjournment

**Motion by Peter Zanardi, second by Rick Schreiber to adjourn at 8:31 P.M.**  
**Unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Bettie Perreault*

Chairman