

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes, November 14, 2018
Page 1 of 3

The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at the Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Bob Bandzes, Bettie Perreault, Rick Schreiber and Peter Zanardi. Ex-officio members present were Selectman Charlene Janecek, Fire Chief John Brainard, Fire Marshals Dick Leighton and Dave Roberge. Also present were Deputy Chief James Grzybowski, Assistant Chief Charles Greeney, EMS Chief Jim Schaffer, Battalion Chief Kim Brainard, Trustee Vin Germini and Michael Joplin, Chairman of the Main Street Project Committee. Chairman Bettie Perreault called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Item 1: Approval of Minutes of October 17, 2018

On motion by Schreiber, seconded by Zanardi, the minutes of October 19, 2018 were unanimously approved.

Item 2: Guests

Michael Joplin, Chairman of the Main Street Project Committee distributed copies of a reconfigured parking layout showing six parking spaces for the area in front of the stone wall that addressed concerns that had been expressed at an earlier meeting. He also reviewed potential costs and funding sources that might be available and utilized for the project. The existing water line in Main Street, which is approximately 90 years old, was discussed. The recommendation that it be replaced prior to construction associated with this project was considered a priority. Relocation of existing fire hydrants should be considered as a part of any replacement project. Commission members and Hose Company officers agreed that the Town should communicate with the Connecticut Water Company to recommend replacement of this water line on a timetable that would allow completion of the work to avoid impact on the Main Street project. Members of the Main Street Committee, Hose Company officers and other officials with input and knowledge should be a part of all meetings involving these actions. The Commission will recommend to the Board of Selectmen these recommendations and advice, including the request that the Hose Company be included in all future communications.

Item 3: Report of Trustees

(a) Cedar Lake water supply project

Vin Germini, Trustee President, reported the CT DEEP has inspected the proposed location of the project and has contacted him regarding tank and pipe specifications. Frost protection is a consideration requiring additional review. Fencing, access and protection of the site as well as details of pipe diameter/length, distance to a serviceable depth in Cedar Lake as well as potential costs were reviewed. Dave Roberge provided a design and construction plan of a similar project that offered further details for consideration. Potential grant funding options were discussed; if secured, grant funds would not cover the full cost of the project and Town funding would be required. Hose Company officers will monitor potential funding options and keep Town officials and the Board of Finance advised as the review process progresses.

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes, November 14, 2018
Page 2 of 3

Item 4. Report of Board of Selectmen

Selectmen Grzybowski and Janecek advised that repair of the Liberty Street bridge, which was destroyed during a recent storm, began this week and is expected to take three to four weeks to complete. Because the Tilcon paving plants generally close for the season the first of December, paving may not be completed until they reopen.

Item 4: Report of Fire Chief

Chief Brainard reported that the Hose Company is doing “very well”, with officers pitching in to ensure smooth and cooperative operations. The call list for the four-month period, July through October was distributed. A total of 246 calls were responded to during the period, 34 of which were mutual aid responses from mutual aid towns.

EMS Chief Schaffer reviewed the status of recent newly hired employees for ambulance coverage, noting that weekend coverage is improving. A draft job description for part-time paid ambulance staff responsibilities was distributed. Pending further review and editing, it will be reviewed by the Commissioners prior to being submitted to the Board of Selectmen. Because paid ambulance staff are Town employees, everything needs to be reviewed and approved before becoming a part of the Town’s Personnel Policy.

Item 5: Report of Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Leighton distributed activity reports for the month of October; members reviewed and discussed individual actions. Leighton advised that review of privately owned bridges in town is being conducted. Weight limits will require that they be posted advising that no trucks be allowed to cross. Hose Company officers are aware of these limitations and will notify property owners should an event occur in which services are requested.

Item 7: Financial Reports

(a) 2018 - 2019 Budget – Fire Department

Copies of the budget were distributed and reviewed. Deputy Chief Grzybowski reviewed individual line items, advising that expenses associated with building maintenance included repairs to bathrooms (with some work provided as a donation) and roof repairs were included. Testing of Scott masks, testing for hoses, ladders and Hurst tool remain to be done for the year. Replacement of outdated and worn equipment and gear are also anticipated.

(b) 2018 – 2019 Budget – Fire Marshal

Copies of the budget were distributed. Leighton advised of the purchase of a limited portion of the newly enacted Codes. Needs beyond that available in the purchased volumes is being provided through cooperation with other municipalities.

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes, November 14, 2018
Page 3 of 3

Item 8: Old Business

Reports and Status of Events

- Annual Holiday Sales by area churches will be held on December 1 and 2 this year.
- Assistant Chief Greeney advised the Hose Company will hold its annual Santa Comes to Town event in conjunction with the Merchants' Association's First Friday event on December 7 this year. The Hose Company part of the event will take place at 6:30 P.M., with tree lighting and carol sing at the flagpole at Maple Street.
- Because of the length of the meeting it was decided to postpone further vehicle tours until after the holidays; the next one will be scheduled for the January meeting.

Item 9: New Business

There was nothing brought forward.

Item 10: Adjournment

Motion by Zanardi, seconded by Schreiber to adjourn at 8:49 P.M. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Bettie Perreault

Chairman