

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes, May 15, 2019
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The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at the Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were John Divis, Bettie Perreault, Rick Schreiber and Peter Zanardi. Ex-officio members present were Chief John Brainard, and Fire Marshal Dave Roberge. Also present were Deputy Chief James Grzybowski, Assistant Chief Charlie Greeney and EMS Chief Jim Schaffer. Chairman Bettie Perreault called the meeting to order at 7:36 P.M.

Item 1: Call to Order

Item 2: Audience of Citizens

There were none present.

Item 3: Report of Trustees

(a) Cedar Lake Water supply project

There was nothing to report at this time.

Item 4: Report of Board of Selectmen

James Grzybowski, reporting for the Board of Selectmen, reviewed the Main Street Project. The next planned phase of the Project is for the Main Street area from the entrance to Laurel Hill Cemetery to the bridge at the intersection of Main Street/Route 148. The sentiment of those attending the recent information meeting on the project appeared to favor use of concrete for the parking area adjacent to the historic stone wall with a pedestrian plaza. State funding for the project requires submission and approval of the plans prior to bidding. Following bidding and selection of a contractor, additional State review/approval is required prior to the release of funds. All steps must be completed to meet the 2020 funding deadline. Allowing businesses to continue operation before and during construction is a primary consideration; location of a construction staging area is still to be determined. The Town is negotiating with the Connecticut Water Company for the replacement of the water main prior to initiating project construction. Relocation of fire hydrants will be a part of any water main replacement project.

Installation by the Connecticut Water Company of a water main, northbound, on Route 154 is in progress, connecting the present line from Denlar Drive to Tylerville in Haddam, Connecticut. Funding is by the State, which called for an eight-inch main, generally considered to be primarily for residential service. Possible installation of fire hydrants is being considered; cost to the Town will be a factor. Connection to individual property owners will be at the owner's expense and is not currently a part of the installation project.

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Triathlon activities for the 2019 season will begin in June; officials present had not yet learned of details for this year. Deputy Chief Grzybowski advised that charges for services provided by the Chester Hose Company would be increased to cover current costs.

Members were reminded of the Annual Town Meeting for consideration and action on the 2019-2020 fiscal year budget scheduled for Wednesday, May 29, 2019.

Item 5: Report of Fire Chief

Chief John Brainard advised that both he and Battalion Chief Kim Brainard would be stepping down as officers at the end of the current fiscal year.

(a) Report of Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief Grzybowski displayed the recently purchased Amkus extrication equipment, pointing out that the items come with DeWalt batteries, which are interchangeable between units and readily available. Accessory tools are being purchased to augment the equipment. The new units will remain at the High Street Fire House, with the older equipment transferred to units located at the west end of town. Training of personnel will be scheduled with the vendor.

Five bids were received in connection with the remount of an ambulance. Bids ranged from \$103,421 to over \$165,000. Bids were reviewed for parts and materials, timing, warranties, contact with past customers, etc. The bid for \$103,421 from SIV Ambulances was accepted. SIV will both pick up and return the unit, and will have a member of the Hose Company come to their site to inspect the unit prior to delivery. There will be a three-year, 36,000-mile warranty with the unit. The Hose Company will provide a power-lift unit (for stretcher use), which SIV will install as a part of the remount project. Both Commission members and Officers reviewed details of the work to be done, with note that the existing box and all appurtenances will be inspected by SIV and any remedial actions taken as required.

The Chiefs thanked all who had been involved in the bidding and selection processes.

On motion by Peter Zanardi, seconded by John Divis, the Commission submits to the Board of Selectmen its request for release of the sum of \$103,421 from the Capital Account in connection with the ambulance remount as bid by SIV, subject to approval by the Board of Finance. The motion passed unanimously.

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On motion by Rick Schreiber, seconded by Peter Zanardi, the Commission requests the sum of \$15,000 from the Capital Account for the installation of a power lift unit as a part of the ambulance remount project to be completed as a part of the SIV bid, previously submitted. (It is noted that the power lift unit itself will be provided by the Chester Hose Company and is not a part of the SIV bid.) The motion passed unanimously.

Item 6: Report of Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Roberge advised there was nothing to report at this time.

Item 7: Financial Reports

(a) 2019-2020 Fire Department Budget

Deputy Chief Grzybowski reported the Department budget is, overall, “on target” subject to possible line item transfers at the end of the fiscal year. There may be a minor surplus at the end of the fiscal year, primarily as a result of the staffing shortage earlier in the year.

(b) 2019-2020 Fire Marshal Budget

Fire Marshal Roberge advised that the budget for that Office would likely be over-expended at the end of the fiscal year, as has been anticipated.

Item 8: Old Business

(a) Approval of Minutes of April 17, 2019

On motion by Rick Schreiber, seconded by Peter Zanardi, the minutes of April 17, 2019 were unanimously approved as filed. John Divis abstained.

(b) Reports and Status of Events

Details associated with the Triathlon (as reported earlier in the meeting) are not yet known.

Item 9: New Business

The Call Report for the fiscal year to date (July 1, 2018 – March 2019) were distributed. A total of 486 incidents were reported, with the majority being for rescue and emergency medical response incidents. Eighteen fire responses were reported during that period. Alarm responses, particularly those

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associated with re-calls following an initial call, were reviewed. In an effort to reduce the number of such incidents, officials will recommend to property owners measures that should be taken to ensure compliance with alarm company and monitoring company requirements.

Construction of the mezzanine area of the Fire Department building is underway following anonymous gifts of \$6,500. A local contractor is performing the work.

Preparatory work is underway in connection with the installation of heating unit in the floor of the main bay area, which is anticipated to be undertaken in July.

Item 10: Adjournment

Motion by Peter Zanardi, seconded by John Divis to adjourn at 8:41 P.M. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Bettie Perreault, Chairman