

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes, June 19, 2019
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The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at the Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Bob Bandzes John Divis, Bettie Perreault, Rick Schreiber and Peter Zanardi. Ex-officio members present were Selectman Charlene Janecek, Fire Marshals Dick Leighton and 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 7:30 P.M.

Item 1: Call to Order

Item 2: Audience of Citizens

There were none present.

Item 3: Report of Board of Selectmen

Selectmen Charlene Janecek and James Grzybowski, reporting for the Board of Selectmen, advised that Board had approved Plan B of the proposed reconfiguration of Main Street parking, noting that public input had supported that proposal. Plans will be reviewed by Town Engineer, N.L. Jacobson & Associates prior to submission to State agencies for review and approval. It is anticipated that the water main in the project area of Main Street will be replaced in the fall. Location of two fire hydrants will be finalized during replacement of the water main. Subject to receipt of all approvals, construction of the project is expected to commence mid-March 2020.

The Budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 was approved at Town Meeting held May 29, 2019.

Item 4: Report of Fire Chief

(a) Report of Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief Grzybowski reported remount of Ambulance Unit 2 is in progress. A change order will be issued to add on-spot chains to the unit at an estimated cost of approximately \$1,200, for which funding is already available. Ambulance Unit 1 is back in service following replacement of the water pump at a cost of \$1,700±. During the time Unit 1 was out of service, Westbrook was able to loan use of one of its units to Chester; the Commission will extend its appreciation for the coverage.

Full coverage by ambulance and personnel will be provided during the Four on the Fourth Road Race. Installation of floor heating in the building bays is in progress, with bids expected to go out shortly. Officers will review plans for relocation of driveways associated with work to be done by Camp Hazen-YMCA.

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Town officials will be reviewing the Connecticut Water Company's installation of the water main in Route 154 in connection with potential installation of fire hydrants.

With the addition of personnel, staffing for the ambulance service has improved and recent hires have received good reviews. Election of officers of the Chester Hose Company is scheduled for July 3, with all on the slate unopposed.

Item 5: Report of Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Dick Leighton circulated activity reports for April and May, pointing out that installation of underground propane tank at 5 West Main Street and the removal of surface units have been completed. This work closed out all issues associated with propane tanks and the 2018 storm. Installation of a Knox Box at Roto-Frank following a recent incident led to remedial entrance/egress installations for safety improvements. Commission members reviewed individual items on the reports, with a variety of issues brought up.

Item 6: Financial Reports

(a) 2019-2020 Fire Department Budget

Deputy Chief Grzybowski advised that anticipated fiscal year-end expenditures have been included in the financial report he distributed, indicating a potential return to the Town of an estimated \$6,000 at the end of the fiscal year. Additionally, for the fiscal year-to-date, ambulance revenue is approximately \$185,000, and may reach close to \$200,000 in revenue by the end of June. The significant gain was seen as a direct result of recent employment of additional personnel and improvement in responses to calls.

(b) 2019-2020 Fire Marshal Budget

Fire Marshal Leighton distributed year-to-date financial information showing an anticipated shortage at year-end of approximately \$6,400. Activity reports have been modified to allow itemization of costs associated with emergency and similar incidents. This information will assist the Board of Finance and other officials in future budgeting considerations.

Item 7: Old Business

(a) Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2019

On motion by Rick Schreiber, seconded by Peter Zanardi the minutes of May 15, 2019 were unanimously approved as filed.

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(b) Reports and Status of Events

- a. Sunday Market opened for the season the previous weekend; Fire Marshals will review activities once vendors have time to acclimate.
- b. Triathlon activity was very light during the last event because of inclement weather and an unrelated accident in the area. State Police personnel and Chester Resident Tr. Matt Ward are in charge of vehicle traffic and parking matters. Ambulance and Chester Hose Company personnel continue to be on scene for these events.

Item 8: New Business

(a) Correspondence

Letter was received from the Chester Hose Company expressing appreciation of the Commission's participation in the Annual Banquet. Letter was circulated to all present.

- (b) Thanks and appreciation for the service and contribution were extended to the Chief and Officers of the Hose Company on their retirement at the end of their term.
- (c) Vehicle tours will resume as time permits for meetings in the fall.
- (d) Commission members and officers considered activities that might require Commission action during the month of August and agreed that so long as there was nothing pending at that time, the regular August meeting could be cancelled.

Motion by Peter Zanardi, seconded by John Divis to cancel the August 21, 2019 regular meeting of the Commission. Unanimously approved.

Item 9: Adjournment

Motion by Peter Zanardi, seconded by John Divis to adjourn at 8:09 P.M. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Bettie Perreault, Chairman