

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes, September 18, 2019
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The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at the Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Bob Bandzes, Bettie Perreault, and Rick Schreiber. Ex-officio members present were Chief James Grzybowski, Fire Marshals Dick Leighton and Dave Roberge. Also present were Deputy Chief Charles Greeney, Assistant Chief John Ahearn, EMS Chief Geoff Vincelette, and Lt. Ben Belisk. . Chairman Bettie Perreault called the meeting to order at 7:33 P.M.

Item 1: Call to Order

Item 2: Audience of Citizens

- (a) Update – Main Street Project – Selectman Grzybowski reported the Main Street Project Committee will be meeting and submit the final plans to the State for review and approval. The Connecticut Water Company has scheduled replacement of the water main in Main Street to begin October 15, with work to be performed primarily during week day night-time hours; installation of connections will be performed at other times as needed. Traffic will be restricted to a single lane as needed during construction activities. The hydrant currently located at the flagpole circle will be relocated adjacent to 1 Maple Street. The connection will remain capped until the Main Street Project, scheduled for spring of 2020 is completed.

Item 3: Report of Board of Selectmen

Selectman Grzybowski reported Public Works is working on the improvements to the walkway leading from Main Street to the Maple Street Parking lot, creating a wider walkway where possible, eliminating steps, removing some trees to provide better clearance, etc. Lighting will be improved, using existing fixtures. The parking area may be utilized as a staging area during the project construction, and potentially also during the water main replacement if approvals can be negotiated. Lighting will be upgraded using fixtures that minimize impact on the surrounding neighborhood.

Item 4: Report of Fire Chief

Chief Grzybowski reported Ambulance Unit 2, which is currently being refurbished, was inspected last week with some last-minute details taken care of. Delivery is anticipated before the end of September, with payment to be made upon delivery. It will then be outfitted with lights at Whelen Engineering before inspections are made by OEMS and DMV, with registration the final step before it goes into service around October 1.

Ambulance Unit 1 is currently out of service because of an antifreeze leak and is in the process of being repaired. A Clinton ambulance is covering for Chester with Chester personnel until Unit 1 can return to service.

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Appointments made by the Hose Company during its September meeting include the following:

Steward	Bruce Sypher
Quarter Master	Sylvia Miksa
Safety Officer	Jim Skeffington
Valley Shore Mutual Aid Assoc.	Charles Greeney, James Grzybowski, John Ahearn, Brian Ahearn
Middlesex County Chiefs	Charles Greeney, James Grzybowski, John Ahearn, Brian Ahearn
Valley Shore Ambulance	Geoff Vincelette, Sara Blaschik
Public Information Officer (PIO)	Chief or Officer
VSAP	Vin Germini, James Grzybowski
Tax Exemption	Vin Germini, James Grzybowski
Jr. Advisor	Jenna Tiezzi, Sara Blaschik
Public Relations (Website/Facebook)	Jenna Tiezzi, Kim Mills, Scot Mills, Ray Guasp

The assignment of alarm notifications has been changed to better handle responses to various areas and types of incidents, with the various mutual aid towns available with specialty equipment such as ladder truck, aerial equipment, etc. Personnel from all mutual aid towns respond as needed in all cases.

Unit numbers assigned to ambulance responders is also being changed to provide better identification of the responder and function being performed. Truck drivers' unit numbers will also be changed, enabling Valley Shore Communications to identify them, facilitating location when additional crew is needed. Similar renumbering of other levels of responders is in the process of being reviewed.

Hose Company activities at the Grinder Tent and Dunk Tank went well, with thanks extended to the Fair Association and all those who helped during the weekend. It was noted the Fair Association now a dedicated EMS room which saw a number of patients at different times during the Fair.

Upcoming events include a Cruise, Blues & Brews event, a Fire Prevention activity at the Chester Elementary School, the annual Hose Company Craft Fair, and in October a Retirement Party for long-time Hose Company member Bill Beni, after 50 years of service.

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The Incident Report for July showed a total of 47 responses; following instillation and training with new software, future reports could be provided monthly. The 2018-2019 Hose Company's annual report for the Town's Annual Report has been submitted; copy was distributed to all. Hose Company engineers will attend a Commissioners' meeting to explain what they do.

(a) Report of Deputy Chief

(b) Report of Assistant Chief

Deputy Chief Greeney and Assistant Chief John Ahearn had nothing to report.

(c) Report of EMS Chief

EMS Chief Geoff Vincelette reviewed the new recertification requirements for both ambulance drivers and EMS personnel. All will now need continuing education as a part of the recertification requirement, two-year renewal periods. Training can be provided either in-house or cooperatively with other departments. Chief Grzybowski reported a meeting had been held with all current paid EMS personnel to review practices, protocols and regulations. Maintaining adequate coverage with part-time personnel is difficult; it may become necessary at some time in the future to consider the potential of full-time staff. Vincelette advised he would be attending Valley Shore Mutual Aid meetings.

Item 5: Report of Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Dick Leighton distributed the activity reports for July and August and reviewed a number of items on the reports. Issues with alarm systems have been addressed, minimizing unnecessary responses. Properties on Inspiration Lane are faced with insurance issues because of the lack of sprinklers, which were not installed since there is not an adequate water supply.

State-mandated exercises for rest home operations are conducted regularly. The Fire Marshal's office works with local facilities to ensure they have pre-planned for emergencies and provided examples of the types of situations that might or have already occurred.

Item 6: Financial Reports

(a) 2019-2020 Fire Department Budget

Chief Grzybowski distributed the current budget status and advised that as he becomes more familiar with the details within the various line items, allocation of funds may be moved to better reflect actual uses. Details of the budget for Ambulance

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operations was distributed; with a new officer in charge, it can be anticipated that future budget report formats will have been revised.

(b) 2019-2020 Fire Marshal Budget

Fire Marshal Leighton had nothing to report at this time.

Item 7: Old Business

(a): Approval of Minutes of June 19, 2019

On motion by Rick Schreiber, seconded by Bob Bandzes the minutes of July 17, 2019 were unanimously approved as filed.

(b) Reports and Status of Events: Activities and personnel involved in connection with the Triathlon events were reported and reviewed. It was noted that the Fire Marshal submits invoices for activities of the Hose Company and that office for reimbursement to the Town.

Item 8: New Business

(a) Correspondence – there was nothing to report.

(b) Chief Grzybowski advised a committee has been formed to begin preparing for the replacement of Engine #1, the Pierce Pumper. Bob Bandzes will represent the Commissioners and participate with this committee going forward.

Item 9: Adjournment

Motion by Bob Bandzes, seconded by Rick Schreiber to adjourn at 8:56 P.M. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Bettie Perreault, Chairman