

**Chester Board of Fire Commissioners**  
**Minutes, November 20, 2019**  
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The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at the Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were John Divis, Bettie Perreault and Rick Schreiber. Ex-officio members present were Chief James Grzybowski, Selectman Charlene Janecek, Fire Marshals Dick Leighton and Dave Roberge. Also present were Deputy Chief Charles Greeney and Lt. Ben Belisle. Chairman Bettie Perreault called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M.

Item 1: Call to Order

Item 2: Audience of Citizens

- (a) Update – Selectman Janecek advised that the replacement of the water main in Main Street has been completed. The pavement is a temporary installation pending commencement of the Main Street Project, anticipated to start early in 2020.
- (b) Update – The Town has received confirmation that the CT DOT is in the process of reviewing the final plans for the Main Street Project and anticipates forwarding its review comments within the next couple of weeks. Details already provided to the Town have, in most instances, already been addressed.
- (c) Proposals for development of a condominium community and an affordable housing complex were reported for the Planning & Zoning Commission. Attention to safety of such developments will need careful review by Hose Company officers.
- (d) The Town has signed a 2019 State Homeland Security Grant Program Memorandum of Agreement for Region 2. Potential uses of grant funding, if approved, could include, among others, installation of a VHF radio in the marine boat.

Item 3: Report of Board of Selectmen

Selectman Janecek advised that the above updates cover the Selectmen's report.

Item 4: Report of Fire Chief

Chief Grzybowski reported the Department has had a busy month, with excellent member participation in response to calls, with "fully loaded" trucks rolling. Mutual aid calls have also had good responses, with favorable interactions with other departments. Bettie Perreault extended appreciation to Chief Grzybowski for his service on the Board of Selectmen for the term, which just ended, and for his roles within the Hose Company.

The Activity Call Report for September was distributed and reviewed. It showed a total of 58 responses, detailed as being for two fires, 49 rescue and medical incidents, one hazardous condition, two service calls and four alarm and false calls. Mutual aid was received from Deep River and Haddam for lack of available of crew; mutual aid responses were sent to Haddam and Killingworth. New personnel are being trained to do data entry, enabling reports to be prepared more quickly.

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Hose Company activities for the coming month include the following:

- Holiday Tree Lighting, the annual visit by Santa and the start of the Hose Company's annual wreath sale on December 6;
- The Hose Company's annual Christmas Party on December 16, and
- Preparation of the annual letter funding drive, currently being organized, with funding for a second Lucas Device and Thermal Imaging Cameras on the Company's "wish list".
- Membership in the Juniors' Program is growing, with additional members joining and others expressing interest.
- Ambulance #2 is now in service following final outfitting and processing by the CT DVM for its registration. Monthly rotation of available vehicles will be scheduled.

(a) Report of Deputy Chief – there was nothing additional to report.

(b) Report of Assistant Chief – there was no report available.

(c) Report of EMS Chief – there was no report available.

(d) Lt. Belisle reported the truck committee has visited other departments to look at their equipment, including trips to Westbrook and Essex and, within the month, will be going to Saybrook.

**Item 5: Report of Fire Marshal**

Fire Marshal Dick Leighton distributed the activity report for October. Note was again made of the fact that facilities on Inspiration Lane do not have sprinkler systems. The Fire Marshal's office is working with tenants to investigate options that may address concerns presented by insurance carriers. A new operation on Main Street is in process, with the property owner to be the resident on the second floor.

**Item 6: Financial Reports**

**(a) 2019-2020 Fire Department Budget**

Chief Grzybowski distributed reports on the current Hose Company and Ambulance budgets, advising that expenditures are "running pretty much on target". Ambulance income showed typical slight reduction for the month, reflecting similar past history. Activities are anticipated to increase in the coming months, also reflecting past experience, with good personnel responses continuing.

**(b) 2019-2020 Fire Marshal Budget**

Fire Marshal Leighton advised that the Fire Marshal's budget remains "in the black" at the present time.

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Item 7: Old Business

(a): Approval of Minutes of October 15, 2019

**On motion by John Divis seconded by Rick Schreiber the minutes of October 15, 2019 were approved as filed, with Schreiber abstaining.**

(b) Reports and Status of Events: Activities and events were reviewed earlier in the meeting.

Item 8: New Business

(a) Correspondence – Meeting schedule for 2020 will continue the practice of meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. at the Chester Hose Company and will be submitted to the Town Clerk.

(b) Confirmation of Appointments – Robert Bandzes and Rick Schreiber have been reappointed to four-year terms on the Board.

(c) Election of officers for the coming year will be held at the next meeting of the Board.

Item 9: Adjournment

**Motion by John Divis, seconded by Rick Schreiber to adjourn at 8:07 P.M. Unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Bettie Perreault*, Chairman