

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes, March 17, 2021
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The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting via GoToMeeting on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at the Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Bob Bandzes, John Divis, Rick Schreiber and Bettie Perreault. Ex-officio members present was Selectman Charlene Janecek, Fire Marshal, Dick Leighton, Chief James Grzybowski and Assistant Chief Charles Greeney.

Item 1: Call to Order

Chairman Bettie Perreault called the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M. followed by roll call of those present.

Item 2: Audience of Citizens – there was no audience of citizens.

Item 3. Update – Main Street Project: Sign locations currently do not properly reflect the ability to enforce parking regulations. Improper and illegal parking of delivery vehicles plus construction activities currently underway and those proposed will significantly impact available parking space on Main Street, particularly the placement of dumpster and equipment. These factors are of concern and can become safety factors for safe passage of emergency vehicles.

Item 4. Report on Current Events

Chief Grzybowski reported that in the coming weeks, in-person meetings and drills would begin to be resumed, including outside drills.

There are now seven members in the Junior Program, whose members are doing on-line training and beginning in April will hold in-house training drills for its members. All Junior members anticipate attending the one-week Fire Academy this summer. The Chief said the members are “very enthusiastic” and eager to learn.

An outdoor Easter Egg Hunt has been scheduled for April 3. The possibility of holding the annual Chester Fair, with perhaps limited activities, is under consideration and review.

Item 5. Report of Board of Selectmen

Selectman Janecek had nothing to add at this time and reported, “All is quiet”.

Item 6. Report of Fire Chief

Chief Grzybowski distributed the February Call Report of Activities, showing the department had responded to 41 incidents. One incident, caused by weather conditions, produced opportunities for training. The Chief praised active and speedy responses by members.

The Brush Truck is having final finishing steps taken care of and is expected to be back in service within a month.

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Bob Bandzes inquired about insurance coverage for the deuce and a half, advising that some insurance carriers are pushing back on coverage. The Chief advised that Chester's carrier has not had an issue and coverage is provided. All vehicles are inspected annually as well.

Item 7: Report of Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Dick Leighton distributed the activity report for February 2021. In review of a residential fire, the speed of the response and actions taken were excellent. Leighton's praise of the manner in which things were handled, resulting in facilitating Fire Marshal reporting, was, in his words, "fantastic".

Item 8: Financial Reports

(a) 2020-2021 Fire Department Budget: Chief Grzybowski reviewed the current budget, both expenditures and income, noting the budget is "on target" for the current year.

(b) 2020-2021 Fire Marshal Budget: Fire Marshal Leighton reported that the budget remains on track, with expectation to end the fiscal year in the black.

(c) 2021-2022 Fire Department Budget – Proposed:

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance is scheduled for March 18, 2021, at which time capital expenditure items, including those of the Fire Department will be under review. Company members will be asked to participate.

(d) 2021-2022 Fire Marshal Budget – Proposed

There was nothing to report.

Item 9. Old Business – there was nothing to bring up.

Item 10. Approval of Minutes of January 20, 2021

On motion by Rich Schreiber, seconded by John Divis, the minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

Item 11. Report and Status of Events: there was nothing additional to report.

Item 12. New Business:

Construction activity of a new structure at Chester Point Marina is underway. Opening of the restaurant facility will probably not occur until July 4, although the developers hope for a Memorial Day opening.

Item 13. Correspondence: There was none.

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Item 14. From Members or Guests: Nothing was brought forward.

Item 15. Adjournment

**Motion by Rick Schreiber, seconded by Bob Bandzes, to adjourn at 8:01 P.M.
Unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bettie Perreault, Chairman