

**Chester Board of Fire Commissioners**  
**Minutes, June 23, 2021**  
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The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held a rescheduled monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at the Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester, Connecticut. (The meeting had been rescheduled for officers to attend area graduations.) In attendance were Bob Bandzes, Bob Quale and Bettie Perreault. Ex-officio members present were Chief James Grzybowski and Assistant Chief Charles Greeney.

Item 1: Call to Order

Chairman Bettie Perreault called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M. followed by roll call of those present.

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

Item 3. Updates – Connecticut Water Company is installing water main in North Main Street and Goose Hill Road to the intersection with Kings Highway. Road may be closed to through traffic periodically during construction but alternative routes are readily available.

Item 4. Report on Current Events

Chief Grzybowski reported on the following:

- Rotary Club Four on the Fourth Road Race will be held on Monday, July 5. The Department will have fire police and responders on the route during the event for approximately 1½ hours.
- The Department's annual banquet will be held on July 10 at the Pattaconk Yacht Club as a BBQ Banquet from 5–7 P.M. The Wheatmarket will cater the event, and the Yacht Club is providing the location and amenities.
- The Chester Fair will be held this year after missing 2020 due to the pandemic. Exhibits and other areas will have one-way pedestrian traffic but otherwise the event will be as has been normal in the past.
- The Triathlon has not yet provided details or dates of its activities for this season. The Hose Company has been in contact with the organizers, providing details of the services that will be provided and their costs. If information is not available to schedule Department personnel, an event cannot be held.
- The Sunday Market is now operational in the Center for this summer season.
- Chester Hose Company election of officers will be held on July 7.

Item 5. Report of Board of Selectmen

Selectman Janeczek was unable to attend. The only item noted was that there will not be any additional hydrants installed in connection with the water main construction.

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Item 6. Report of Fire Chief

Chief Grzybowski distributed the Activity Report for the month of May, noting that 69 calls were responded to. Two new drivers have now been trained and are available to respond to calls. The Hose Company has welcomed about one new member each month, while Trustees are working actively to provide gear and equipment as the ranks continue to grow. Notice soliciting employment of new EMT personnel will be released within the coming week, with details providing rates and availability. (It was noted that other departments are also seeking new personnel and that the Chester department needs to remain competitive to attract applicants.)

The Truck Committee has been meeting and is working to meet all the desired needs for a new vehicle while facing significant cost increases. The Board of Finance will be made aware of these increases as additional funding may be required. The new vehicle, when completed, will replace Engine #1, which will be retired.

Doors for the Fire House are scheduled to be replaced but with materials deliveries considerably delayed, installation may not yet be able to be done for several months. Once the door installation is completed, controlled access equipment will also be installed.

Marker 37, a new restaurant at the end of Dock Road at the mouth of Chester Creek is now open. The installation of a dry hydrant and source of potable water (Connecticut Water Company) were discussed in detail. Possible future additional construction in the marina may provide additional dry hydrants for fire protection. It was noted that there are numerous dry hydrants throughout the town, with one proposed for installation at Cedar Lake near the intersection with Cedar Lake Road.

Item 7: Report of Fire Marshal – The Fire Marshal was not available for this meeting.

Item 8: Financial Reports

(a) 2020-2021 Fire Department Budget: Chief Grzybowski reviewed the near-year-end status of the budget, noting that with expenditures to date and orders that have been placed, with payments pending, there may be approximately \$1,400 unexpended at the end of the fiscal year, which will be returned to the Town General Fund. Income from the ambulance service remains below anticipated, primarily because of the impact from the COVID pandemic. Call activity has increased as conditions have improved; it is anticipated that the new fiscal year may see a return to the former, higher revenue stream.

(b) 2020-2021 Fire Marshal Budget: No report was available.

(c) 2021-2022 Fire Department Budget: With costs for many items increasing, the Chief confirmed that the approved budget for the Department for the coming fiscal year had included potential higher costs for some line items.

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(d) 2021-2022 Fire Marshal Budget: No report was available

Item 9. Old Business – The Department’s Juniors are currently working to compile an inventory of both vehicles and equipment. If the project has been sufficiently developed, the Juniors will be invited to present a report to the Commissioners as a part of the October Board meeting.

Item 10. Approval of Minutes of May 20, 2021

**On motion by Bob Bandzes, seconded by Bettie Perreault, the minutes of the May, 2021 meeting were approved.** Bob Quale abstained as he had not been present.

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

Item 12. New Business: There was nothing to report.

Item 13. Correspondence: There was none.

Item 14. From Members or Guests: There was nothing brought up.

Item 15. Adjournment

**Motion by Bob Quale, seconded by Bob Bandzes, to adjourn at 8:14 P.M. Unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Bettie Perreault*, Chairman