

**Chester Board of Fire Commissioners**  
**Minutes, August 18, 2021**  
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The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at the Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Bob Bandzes, John Divis, Bob Quale, Bettie Perreault and Rick Schreiber. Ex-officio members present were Chief James Grzybowski, Assistant Chief Charles Greeney and Resident State Trooper Matt Warren.

Item 1: Call to Order

Chairman Bettie Perreault called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. followed by roll call of those present.

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

Item 3. Updates –

- Instillation of water main on North Main Street/Goose Hill Road is expected to be completed and operational by the end of August. Currently connection lines are being installed for property owners wishing to be connected.

Item 4. Report on Current Events

- The Juniors continue to sell popcorn at the Sunday Market, raising money to purchase turn-out gear and equipment for their members. Training classes for members are anticipated to include forestry training, fire police training, truck and equipment details, and TFC Warren to work with his trained dogs.
- The Chester Fair Committee has Department activities organized and has been working with TFC Warren and the Fair Committee. The Juniors will sponsor the dunk tank; the Department will man its booth.
- Triathlon was held earlier this month with no problems encountered. The route was changed, eliminating runners on state roads. There will be only one event this year; return to a full schedule is anticipated for next year.
- Department support in connection with event(s) being held by other mutual aid towns was reviewed.
- Radio frequencies have been updated for portable units in connection with fire and police frequencies.

Item 5. Report of Board of Selectmen

There was no report available.

Item 6. Report of Fire Chief

Chief Grzybowski, Assistant Chief Greeney and TFC Warren briefly reported on recent responses in connection with motor vehicle accidents.

The Department continues to grow, with new members joining, both Chester residents and from other towns.

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The Department will be holding a Fire I Class this fall, with high interest from both members and Juniors.

A current Department member recently gained EMT certification, having served as driver previously.

The call activity report for July, showing 58 calls responded to was distributed. Mutual aid responses show increasing aid to other departments as more active volunteers become available, and growing confidence in Chester's response from other municipalities is recognized. The increasing activity and responses have also resulted in increased income as the earlier pandemic slow-down eases.

**Item 7: Report of Fire Marshal**

Fire Marshal Leighton was out of state and unable to attend. The activity report for the month of July 2021 was distributed without discussion.

**Item 8: Financial Reports**

(a) 2020-2021 Fire Department Budget: Chief Grzybowski explained the year-end financial report status has not yet been finalized. Income had not reached expectations and the Board of Finance and other officials had been made aware early in the year.

(b) 2020-2021 Fire Marshal Budget: No report was submitted in Leighton's absence.

(c) 2021-2022 Fire Department Budget: The year-to-date was distributed with the Chief advising the expenditure in connection with Data Processing exceeded expectations as the result of migration of records to new systems. Expenditures for Building Maintenance were associated primarily with the scheduled replacement of doors.

(d) 2021-2022 Fire Marshal Budget: There is nothing to report at this time.

**Item 9. Old Business –**

The Chief and Fire Marshal have finished the inventory of private bridges. Those which are known to be inadequate for Department vehicles to safely cross will be notified; all others will be posted for safety of emergency vehicles or equipment. All drivers have been made aware of these safety concerns.

**Item 10. Approval of Minutes of July 21, 2021**

**On motion by Rick Schreiber, seconded by John Divis, the minutes of the July 21, 2021 meeting were approved.**

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

**Item 12. New Business:**

The October Commissioners' Agenda will invite the Juniors to attend and report on the status of the Department inventory they are developing.

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Bob Bandzes reported the Truck Committee met recently with a vendor which brought equipment for members to review. Cost for a consultant to prepare bid specifications will be reviewed and brought to the Committee for a vote before acceptance.

Item 13. Correspondence: There was none.

Item 14. From Members or Guests

TFC Warren reported a class of state police troopers is graduating and there will be field training for all new troopers. He has been at recent Sunday Markets with his police dog, introducing himself and his canine (in his vehicle) to children and others.

As a result of the information and exchange of knowledge Warren has brought to these meetings, as well as his interaction and cooperation with Department officers, his participation at future meetings will be included as a regular agenda item as his schedule permits.

Item 15. Adjournment

**Motion by Bob Quale, seconded by Rick Schreiber, to adjourn at 8:37 P.M.  
Unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Bettie Perreault*, Chair