

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes, November 17, 2021
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The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at the Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Bob Bandzes, John Divis, Bettie Perreault and Rick Schreiber. Ex-officio members present were Chief James Grzybowski, Fire Marshal Dick Leighton, as well as Assistant Chief Charles Greeney and Resident State Trooper Matt Warren.

Item 1: Call to Order

Chair 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 – Among the items noted was the following:

- Fire Marshal Leighton advised the removal of trailer at 27 Liberty Street has been completed.

Item 4. Report on Current Events

At the present time confirmation of details associated with First Friday, tree lighting ceremony and Santa Comes to Town have not been formalized, awaiting details and timing from other involved officials and organizations.

Item 5. Report of Board of Selectmen

- There was no Selectmen's report available

Item 6. Report of Fire Chief

- The call activity report for October, showing 68 calls responded to, was distributed and reviewed. As mutual aid responses showed, note was made of the need for personnel as others have transitioned to other positions.
- RFP in connection with the fire/rescue vessel have been finalized following consultation with builders, with the matter to be considered as a part of the Board of Finance meeting and a bid closing date proposed for December 20, 2021.
- The truck committee continues to be reviewing specifications with vendors. Commissioner Bandzes noted, "...the committee is doing a good job" in its research.
- The Chief is working with the contractor in connection with the details of building access control, which will provide card key access for authorized members and personnel. A significant amount of "paperwork" has been required to facilitate this transition.
- The brush truck is having repair work conducted in connection with the wiring harness.

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Item 7: Report of Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Leighton distributed the activity report for October and advised that most of the time during the month was in connection with removal of trailer at 27 Liberty Street. Annual inspections are currently being conducted. Removal of the fire-destroyed structure at 27 Ridge Road has been completed, although there remains a number of other legal and logistical matters to be concluded.

Item 8: Report of Resident State Trooper

TFC Warren praised the officers and member of the Hose Company for responses to incidents during the past two months, noting their professionalism and competency.

A total of 428 calls for service had been responded to during the past month. Email notifications to Town residents have been sent reminding people to lock their vehicles to prevent thefts and to slow down. The Polar Plunge, recently held, included significantly more participants and can be expected to increase. Organizers have been advised that responders will be required when participation exceeds 50 for future events.

The traditional Hose Company wreath sale will be held, beginning on Friday, December 3, with a "Stuff a Cruiser" food-raising event scheduled for the same weekend.

Item 8: Financial Reports

(a) 2021-2022 Fire Department Budget: The year-to-date was distributed and reviewed, with expenditures to date shown as being within budget. Line items that had not yet been approved by the Chief were noted and discussed.

(b) 2021-2022 Fire Marshal Budget: The report was distributed and reviewed. It was noted that until such time as the adoption date of required Codes has been confirmed, expenditure for that item will not be made.

Item 9. Old Business

Notification to owners of private bridges was discussed, with the request that notification to Commissioners of the details to be provided and the notification that will be given to bridge owners before it is sent to the individual property owners.

Item 10. Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2021

On motion by Rick Schreiber, seconded by John Divis, the minutes of the October 20, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

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

Item 12. New Business:

The December meeting of the Commissioners will be replaced with invitation from the Hose Company to participate in its annual Christmas/Drill event scheduled for December 13. Cancellation of the regular meeting will require the re-scheduling of biennial elections to the January meeting.

Item 13. Correspondence: There was none.

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

Item 15. Adjournment: there being no further business brought up,

On motion by Rick Schreiber, seconded by John Divis, to adjourn at 8:21 P.M. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Bettie Perreault, Chair