

**Chester Board of Fire Commissioners**  
**Minutes, May 25, 2022**  
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The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held its meeting on Wednesday, 25, 2022 (re-scheduled from the regular meeting date of May 18, 2022) at the Fire House, 6 High Street. In attendance were Bob Bandzes, John Divis, Bob Quale, Rick Schreiber and Bettie Perreault. Ex-officio members attending were Fire Chief James Grzybowski and Fire Marshal Dick Leighton. (First Selectman Charlene Janecek was unavailable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.) Also present were Resident Trooper Matt Warren and Assistant Chief Charlie Greeney.

Item 1: Call to Order

Chair Bettie Perreault called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. followed by roll call of those present.

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

Item 3. Report of Board of Selectmen

There was no Selectmen's report as the Board of Selectmen had a meeting at the same time.

Item 4. Report of Fire Chief

Chief Grzybowski distributed Incident Reports for March and April. The reports showed March had 54 responses, April had 47. The shortage of personnel has been improved significantly as two new people came into service, with additional staff beginning in June. An up-dated job description is being implemented for additional new hires. (At the Chief's request, the June Commissioners' meeting will be held June 8 to review and approve the up-dated job description.) The need for mutual aid and volunteers was noted by the toning out during calls but should be alleviated as new hires become available.

Bob Bandzes reported the Truck Committee is continuing development of specifications, with concern over the escalation of pricing for all aspects of the project.

Chief Grzybowski advised he is working on pricing from vendors in connection with an up-coming reevaluation of ISO certification, and that pump testing is being scheduled.

The Town 2022-2023 Budget was approved at the recent Town meeting. The Hose Company has presented the proposed slate of officers for the coming year, to be voted on at the July annual meeting. The inventory of equipment is continuing for additional details, with current price/values being verified. Doors to be installed at the Fire House are still on back-order as vendor addresses installation issues to ensure the finished project meets all requirements for accuracy and security.

Item 5: Report of Fire Marshal:

Fire Marshal Leighton distributed activity reports for March and April, noting that activities for Building Official and Fire Marshal are often inter-connected. Significant amounts of time have been allocated in efforts to address issues relating to driveway for 11 Kings Highway relating to 2010 actions of the Board of Selectmen and other officials. NFPA and other Code requirements and updates take precedence over local actions,

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which impact allowable activities and installations such as driveways and local regulations. Driveway regulations are being updated to meet current standards of regulations and codes at all levels.

Inspections of Cherry Hill have been completed and requirements to close the outstanding grant associated with renovation/restoration work done are being pursued, with grant expiration date rapidly approaching. The court case(s) associated with the removal of a trailer from the Komondy property on Liberty Street have now been closed. Insurance claim in connection with motor vehicle-caused damage to a bridge on Kings Highway is being filed. (The incident that caused the damage occurred some time ago and deadline for filing claim is imminent.) Updating of regulations concerning driveways, including those of Planning & Zoning regulations, are currently being reviewed for updating to address present standards and official enforcement by safety and other related officials. NFPA regulations and safety concerns for privately-owned bridges are under review and are to be addressed when they are approved.

**Item 6: Report of Resident State Trooper**

TFC Warren first thanked the Chief, Fire Marshal and Public Works for all that they do for Chester and its residents. Their parts in keeping the community what it is are major contributors to the quality of life residents enjoy. Installation of both body cams and video cameras in officers' vehicles are in place. "Speed tables" will be installed on Cedar Lake Road between #58 and #79 Cedar Lake Road on a seasonal basis in response to complaints about speeding and other vehicular violations by drivers, particularly out-of-town operators who are unfamiliar with the rural area.

A Community Trust Liaison role has been established for the CT State Police, allowing the State to cover overtime costs for officers to cover local events. This will be beneficial to local Town budgets. There have been a number of recent changes in local police staffing. Local tri-town officers have been actively involved in all regional schools, and school bus drivers have sought action in connection with drivers who ignore driver safety regulations. Bus drivers' concerns about drivers passing school buses is being addressed by the police officers. Conversion of radio communication for school buses is also needed to allow communication between all public safety services. Restoration of school resource officers, funded by the State, is also an issue that is needed; legislative action to provide funding will be needed. Upcoming events, including the annual Triathlon (June 9, June 23 and additional events during July) were noted, with officers and other emergency responders providing protective services.

**Item 7: Financial Reports**

Chief Grzybowski distributed the Fire Department year-to-date budget, with note that the fiscal year will end with, potentially, a small surplus to return to the General Fund.

Fire Marshal Leighton distributed the budgets for both the Fire Marshal and Building Official, pointing out the interaction between the two functions.

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Item 8. Old Business:

Chief Grzybowski noted that Hurst Tool inspections are still to be done, and will impact the budget figures presented earlier.

Fire Marshal Leighton advised purchase of Codes is still awaiting adoption before expending funds.

Item 9. Approval of Minutes of April 20, 2022 Meeting.

**On motions by John Divis, seconded by Bob Quale, the minutes of the April 20, 2022 meeting were approved.**

Item 10. Reports: There was nothing to report at this time.

Item 11. New Business: There was nothing brought up at this time.

Item 12. Correspondence: None received.

Item 13. Adjournment: there being no further business brought up,

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Bettie Perreault*, Chair