

**Chester Board of Fire Commissioners**  
**Minutes of re-scheduled meeting, July 20, 2022**  
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The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held its regular meeting on Wednesday, July 20, 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 First Selectman Charlene Janecek, Fire Chief James Grzybowski and Fire Marshal Dick Leighton. Also present was Lt. Aiden Bahner and Asst. EMS Chief Parker Divis.

Item 1: Call to Order

Chair Bettie Perreault called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. followed by self-introductions of those present and a welcome to the newly elected officers of the Chester Hose Company.

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

Item 3. Report of Board of Selectmen

First Selectman Charlene Janecek advised the Public Works Department would have new employees on its staff effective the end of the month.

Item 4. Report of Fire Chief

Chief Grzybowski reported election of officers of the Chester Hose Company had been held on July 11:

CHIEF	JAMES	GRZYBOWSKI
DEP. FIRE CHIEF	CHARLES	GREENEY JR
DEP. EMS CHIEF	GEOFF	VINCELETTE
ASSIST. FIRE CHIEF	DYLAN	GRZYBOWSKI
ASSIST. EMS CHIEF	PARKER	DIVIS
BATT. CHIEF	BEN	BELISLE
CAPT.	JAMES	SCHAEFER
LEUT.	AIDAN	BAHNER
MED. COORDINATOR	SUSAN	CURRIER
PRESIDENT	RICHARD	TSOU
SECRETARY	KAREN	SCHAEFER
TREASURER	AVERY	JOHNSON
TRUSTEE	VINCENT	GERMINI
TRUSTEE	JAMES	SKEFFINGTON
TRUSTEE	DENISE	SYPER

Activity and Incident Reports for May and June were distributed and reviewed. There were 68 events reported during May, with mutual aid calls reported as being the result of department vehicles/personnel already engaged. In June, 92 incidents were reported, with only six mutual aid responses needed as a positive effect of additional staffing. For fiscal year 2021-2022, a total of 732 calls were responded to by the Department, with 557 EMS responses – a significant increase from previous years.

Upcoming activities the Department will be participating in include providing safety services for a Triathlon event, a walk-through of the renovated Brush Mill Restaurant, and the annual Chester Fair, for which use of a communications tower is being pursued.

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Details of new software programs for the Department were provided by the Chief, with considerable explanation and discussion of the various systems, their features, who would have access to them, details of how the systems are to be populated during start-up, the training that will be provided, the ability to access information with other departments when needed, and a “community connect” feature to allow residents to provide personal information for individual residences.

With recognition of the amount of time, energy and commitment required for the Chief to effectively administer and maintain the quality and professionalism of the Department and its volunteers, it was the consensus of Commissioners and those present that both an annual stipend and staff support should be established and funded for that position, with the recommendation that request for this be included in the budgeting for the Department for the next fiscal year.

ARPA Funding to up-grade radio communications will be presented to the Board of Selectmen at its July 27 meeting. The details of the proposed equipment, features and cost options were explained and discussed. The existing system currently “works”, but the proposed up-grades will significantly improve function, quality and features, providing greater access and improved safety for volunteers and others.

Construction of the new boat has been delayed for arrival of its pump and the piping to its hand lines. Additional features are being included by the contractor without additional cost, increasing the value of the vessel considerably beyond its original cost.

The annual DOT inspection of vehicles has been scheduled for the month of August. The Department inventory should be completed and presented at the September meeting of the Commissioners.

Individual introductions of Lt. Bahner and EMS Deputy Divis, with details of the positions they hold and the duties they perform, included high praise for their active participation and responses to Department activities and events.

**Item 5: Report of Fire Marshal:**

Fire Marshal Leighton distributed activity reports for June, with note it has been “a routine month”. Bids have been issued for a new generator for the Town Hall, with the old unit scheduled to be moved to the Meeting House. Knox Box authorizations are being updated where needed for residents with changing needs and requirements. Leighton recently attended two days of mandated propane training.

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

TFC Warren was unable to attend.

**Item 7: Financial Reports**

Chief Grzybowski advised 2021-2022 year-end figures are not yet finalized and expenditures for the 2022-2023 fiscal year have not yet been posted.

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Fire Marshal Leighton distributed budgets for both the Fire Marshal and Building Official, noting 2021-2022 fiscal year ended "in the black". The new software programs being installed will include many Fire Marshal requirements, limiting the number of code books which may be required. Building Official Codes will, however, still be needed.

Item 8. Old Business:

Practices used by other area departments in connection with ambulance and fire services were noted, with the differences in services, personnel (employee or volunteer), costs, etc. noted, explained and discussed. Expanding service by other major services have replaced a number of local providers, often the result of the lack of available personnel and funding.

Item 9. Approval of Minutes of June 8, 2022 Meeting.

**On motions by Rick Schreiber, seconded by John Divis, the minutes of the June 8, 2022 meeting were approved.**

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

Item 11. New Business:

After brief discussion,

**On motion by John Divis, seconded by Bob Quale, it was unanimously agreed to not hold a regular meeting during August, with the understanding that it would be called if need arose.**

Item 12. Correspondence: None received.

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

**Motion by Bob Quale, seconded by John Divis, to adjourn at 8:37 P.M. was unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Bettie Perreault*, Chair