

**Chester Board of Fire Commissioners**  
**Minutes – October 19, 2022 meeting**  
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The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held its regular meeting on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at the Fire House, 6 High Street. In attendance were 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 were Captain Jim Schaffer, Deputy EMS Chief Parker Divis and President Rich Tsou.

**Item 1: Call to Order**

Chair Perreault called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. followed by self-introductions of those present.

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

**Item 3. Report of Board of Selectmen**

First Selectman Charlene Janecek reported tree trunks on North Main Street in the vicinity of the Old Burying Ground that had remained following earlier trimming would be removed, and that section of North Main Street would need to be closed during the removal. The Police Department will have an additional new constable effective November 1, bringing the staff to the earlier number.

**Item 4. Report of Fire Chief**

Chief Grzybowski distributed the Activity and Incident Reports for August and the 74 responses reported. Mutual aid calls fluctuated between those received and those given, depending on available resources from the various departments. Response activity continues to be active, with calls, monthly, showing 74 for August, 76 for September and to date for October a current total of 67. Most departments are having a difficult time securing and retaining personnel; responses for attracting and securing additional Chester responders has also been light.

ARPA Funding for communication for the Fire Department was approved by Town Meeting. State approval for the requested items is currently under State review prior to final approval for purchase. Communication equipment and systems are anticipated to be operational by the first of the year, and will provide multiple layers of communication, including dual bands, retention of current system, simulcast, with Department radios having dual bands with repeaters in vehicles. Department members are currently equipped with pagers, providing expanded access when needed.

The Annual Craft Fair was well attended, with good weather and attendance. The Annual Banquet, scheduled for October 22, has 90 responses and is anticipated to be well attended by members and guests.

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A re-scheduled presentation by Rep. Joe Courtney of grant funding will be held on October 26. The Department will participate in Veterans' Day ceremonies on November 11, including a lunch for participants to meet with veterans.

On November 2 a walk-through of the under-construction marine vessel is scheduled for 5 P.M. for Department members and Commissioners. The Chief provided photos of the construction activities and status of the vessel, answering questions and providing additional details. He praised the vendor for the additional work that is being provided during construction at no additional cost to the Town.

Annual inspections of apparatus is ongoing, with Engine 1 (the oldest vehicle in the fleet) receiving as-needed attention to prolong its life. An RFP will be available by the first of the year for the purchase of a new vehicle, with the increasing cost anticipated to result in a much higher purchase price than had originally been anticipated.

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

Fire Marshal Leighton distributed activity reports for September, reviewing individual activities and the actions taken. Additional State-generated information was also distributed.

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

TFC Warren was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

**Item 7: Financial Reports**

Chief Grzybowski advised expenditures to date remain "on target". Income in connection with medical responses is ahead to date for the current year.

Fire Marshal Leighton reported the budget for the Fire Marshal's office remains "in the black".

**Item 8. Old Business:**

Chief Grzybowski advised the new systems to coordinate scheduling, records keeping and related matters between departments continues development and is expected to be operational by early in 2023, with further add-on features, including scheduling to follow.

The inventory of Department equipment, etc. has most of the details recorded. The Chief reported completion of a database with the information remains to be developed and is anticipated to be completed early in 2023.

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Item 9. Approval of Minutes of September 21, 2022 Meeting.

**On motions by Rick Schreiber, seconded by Bob Quale, the minutes of the September 21, 2022 meeting were approved.**

Item 10. Reports:

There was nothing to report at this time.

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

Item 13. Correspondence: None received.

Item 14. Adjournment: there being no further business brought up,

**Motion by Bob Quale, seconded by Rick Schreiber, to adjourn at 7:46 P.M. was unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Bettie Perreault*, Chair