

The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held its regular meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, at the Chester Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester. In attendance were Joel Severance, Richard Schreiber, John Divis, Charlene Janecek and Peter Zanardi. Ex-officio members Fire Chief Charles Greeney, Jr. and Fire Marshal Bernard Negrelli were also present. Chairman Severance called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

1. Approval of September 16, 2009 Minutes

**Motion by Janecek, second by Schreiber, to approve September 16, 2009 Minutes as written. Voting in favor – Janecek, Schreiber, Zanardi, Severance. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.**

2. Audience of Citizens – none.

It is noted for the record John Divis arrived at this time.

3. Report of Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Bernard Negrelli gave a report of inspections, burning permits, blasting permits, removal of oil tanks, etc. Fire Marshal Negrelli noted this hasn't been a good year for him with the problems in the town hall relative to his emails. His email account had been inactivated so he didn't receive any correspondence from the State relative to training classes for several months. Then when it was reactivated they had the wrong email address so he still wasn't getting anything. He is not sure now if he can make up enough hours to keep his certification but is making every effort to do so. Negrelli indicated he was not at all happy about this matter. He also noted about two months ago his monitor died after 17 years so he called Mike and got a new radio. The new radio has two frequencies and #2 receives the whole State of Connecticut. Chief Greeney noted there is something wrong with the radio and it should be given back to Mike for reprogramming. Chester switched over to UHF in July. Fire Marshal Negrelli then noted the radio in his truck doesn't work either. Chief Greeney noted that radio won't work due to the fact they switched over to UHF.

Negrelli noted he will be attending an upcoming 2 day seminar in Rocky Hill this week.

Chairman Severance asked Fire Marshal Negrelli how he was doing on certification points.

Negrelli responded it is going slow. He's been trying to reach John Blaschik to see if he can get a waiver or extension, but has had no response from Mr. Blaschik.

Fire Marshal Negrelli left the meeting at 7:42 PM.

There was a brief discussion regarding the fact the Board of Fire Commissioners should start searching for someone to be Deputy Fire Marshal with the intention of that person taking over when Fire Marshal Negrelli steps down. The question was asked as to what prior knowledge would be required to be a Deputy Fire Marshal. Chief Greeney noted it should ideally be a fire fighter or a building official. Chairman Severance asked Chief Greeney if he would be interested. Greeney replied no, but he would ask at the Chester Hose Company meeting if one of the members would be interested. It was noted the Board of Fire Commissioners should follow up on this matter.

4. Report of Fire Chief

Chief Greeney noted the medical calls are continuing to rise. There are 2 to 3 calls daily to convalescent homes.

Chief Greeney noted all trucks have been DOT inspected, oil changed and they are good to go. There were a couple small problems that have been taken care of. The trucks are all taken to a certified company in Old Saybrook for work and repairs.

Chief Greeney noted he is working with First Selectman Marsh on an Energy Grant for possible replacement of doors, windows and the furnace in the fire house.

5. Report of First Selectman

Chairman Severance noted he received an email from First Selectman Marsh that he did not have anything to report.

6. Report of Emergency Management Director

Chairman Severance (EMD) reported on a recent exercise that was attended by representatives from the Coast Guard, Valley Railroad, State Police and State DEP. The question arose as to who is in charge when an incident occurs. Chairman Severance noted according to State Law the highest ranking fire official is in charge. They are currently working on a protocol that fits in with NIMS (National Incident Management System). Everyone came to an agreement and this will be put in writing.

Chairman Severance noted he was contacted by the American Red Cross. They want to visit the 4 shelters in town.

Chairman Severance reminded everyone December 17<sup>th</sup> is the Annual Emergency Management Directors Conference to be held in Chester. The event will be catered by The Wheat Market. A lot of selectmen have already indicated they will be present. Anyone from the Chester Board of Fire Commissioners is also invited.

Chairman Severance noted they are currently in Phase 2 of the upgrading of the regional network for radio communications. Of the 30 towns that have to approve the spending plan, only four towns have signed the Memorandum of Agreement.

There was discussion regarding the distribution of the H1N1 vaccine for this region. Chief Greeney noted he has been asking for a list of who received the shot, but hasn't gotten any response. Chairman Severance noted he has not been able to get any response from the Old Saybrook office either. Severance has asked for a listing of who was eligible and who actually received the shots for each town in the district.

Chief Greeney noted the N95 masks are due in. Chester is only getting one box of medium. The State gives these out according to a town's population. Greeney noted the town should be receiving one box each of small, medium and large.

7. Financial Report

(a) 2009-2010 Budget

Chief Greeney noted everything is going fine. He does not receive copies of monthly financial

reports any more so will have to request one. Chairman Severance noted he will ask Peter Evankow to email these reports monthly.

8. Old Business – none.

9. New Business

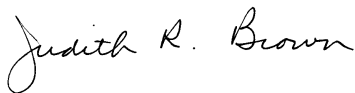
Chairman Severance noted three Commissioners' terms expire on November 19<sup>th</sup> and asked if those individuals would be willing to serve another term. Janecek, Divis and Zanardi all replied yes.

Chief Greeney noted the Hose Company has been working on an addition to the Fire House for several years now and has finally developed a set of plans. Greeney noted test borings came out fine. The relocation of the septic system has been reviewed and approved by Lee Vito, Sanitarian. They will have to work with Fire Marshal Negrelli relative to the old underground oil tank to see if anything needs to be done with it. Greeney noted they have a \$100,000 donation commitment toward this project. With some in-kind help from local builders and contractors, it is anticipated they can do the concrete floor, walls and roof with the \$100,000. They can then go to the Town and ask for the remaining \$65,000 if it is needed. Parking was reviewed. Chief Greeney noted this building (this is a separate building almost attached to the old building, it is not an addition) would allow for the CHC to gain some serious storage which is needed badly. He indicated he would like permission from the Board of Fire Commissioners to proceed forward with the permitting for this project. If possible, they would like to start in March. Fund raising was reviewed. **Motion by Janecek, second by Schreiber, for the Hose Company to proceed with the permitting process for the addition to the Fire House. Voting in favor – Janecek, Schreiber, Divis, Zanardi, Severance. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.**

10. Adjournment

**Motion by Schreiber, second by Janecek, to adjourn at 8:37 PM. Voting in favor – Schreiber, Janecek, Zanardi, Divis, Severance. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary