

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes – September 20, 2023
Page 1 of 3

The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners met on September 20, 2023 at the Fire House, 6 High Street. In attendance were Bob Bandzes, Bettie Perreault, Bob Quale and Rick Schreiber. Ex-officio member, Deputy Chief Charles Greeney filled in for Chief James Grzybowski, who was with family during a medical situation. Also present were Fire Marshal Dick Leighton, President Rich Tsou, Captain Jim Schaefer, Battalion Chief Ben Belisle and Officer Matt Spina.

Item 1: Call to Order

Chair Bettie Perreault called the meeting to order at 7:00 and all present identified themselves.

Item 2: Audience of Citizens – there were no guests present.

Item 3: Report of Board of Selectmen

There was no one present to report.

Item 4. Report of Fire Chief

In the absence of the Chief, there were no activity or financial reports distributed. Summarizing the Department's current status, Deputy Chief Greeney reported:

- The administrative assistant is working well in the new position;
- Equipment and vehicle inspections have taken place; the "deuce" was the most recent inspection;
- The budget is currently "normal";
- The marine vessel is currently in the water and handles well. Trial runs, training, and adjustments of equipment are being addressed to ensure performance, equipment and technology work properly. Other Departments will participate in training. Site cameras are being installed and adjusted to provide maximum security at the marina location.
- The October 14 Craft Fair will be held at the Chester Fair Grounds for 2023.
- Other up-coming events were noted, along with Department and other support services which may be required.

Item 5: Report of Fire Marshal:

Fire Marshal Leighton distributed activity reports, noting that a lot of administrative and "paper work" was completed.

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes – September 20, 2023
Page 2 of 3

Construction activities associated with the water main installation and the additional projects required in connection with Kings Highway are underway. When individual parts of the project are completed, paving will be completed.

Utility companies are performing tasks in connection with the marina area where the new Department vessel will be located. Trees have been removed; a transformer will be installed; a new cabinet, with electrical meter installed; clearer parking marking will ensure parking for Fire Department personnel is available; and, potentially, there will be a charging station for phone(s) made available.

The Planning & Zoning Commission Public Hearing in connection with the proposed multi-family project at 47 Middlesex Avenue has been continued to October 12. Approximately 300 people were present for the earlier Hearing, with vehicular traffic at the Elementary School extensive.

Item 6: Report of Resident State Trooper

Officer Spina reported on Police activities during the past month, advising that 136 traffic stops had been conducted. A break-down of the additional activities performed by the officers was also provided. Officer participation during the Chester Fair went well.

Item 7. Report of Emergency Management Director – no one was available.

Item 8. Old Business:

Battalion Chief Belisle advised the Truck Committee will be meeting with the approved vendor regarding paint selection. The Chief has signed the Contract for the vehicle, which is currently under construction.

Item 9. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on August 16, 2023:

On motion by Rick Schreiber, seconded by Bob Bandzes, the minutes of the August 16, 2023 meeting were approved.

Item 10. Reports: Nothing was brought up.

Item 11. New Business:

Rick Schreiber advised that the Department's medical responders had "performed wonderfully" during a recent event and had high praise for all the Department's responders.

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes – September 20, 2023
Page 3 of 3

Item 12. Correspondence:

Chair Perreault advised that Commissioner John Divis had submitted his resignation from the Board. A long-time Board member, with nearly half a century of Department service, Divis has provided support, encouragement and commitment to the Hose Company and its personnel in many ways. On behalf of the Commission, appreciation and thanks are extended to him for all he has given and done over the years.

Notification of his resignation will be forwarded to the Town Clerk. Appointment to fill the position requires action by the Board of Selectmen, with the Commissioners requesting that the appointment be that of a resident rather than a department member.

Item 13. Other – Members or Guests

Inquiry as to the potential impact of the number of response calls required by the Apple Rehab/Chesterfields facility was noted and discussed.

Item 14. Adjournment:

There being no further business brought up, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bettie Perreault, Chair