

SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT
445 Randolph Road | Middletown, CT

Board of Fire Commissioners
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Held at the firehouse and via Zoom - Meeting I.D. 847 8655 9523

Present: Commissioners Kleckowski, Giuliano, Pessina, Thazhampallath, and Gregorio; Chief Trzaski, Deputy Chief Fischer; members of the public.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Kleckowski called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

3. ACCEPT/AMEND AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

4. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 7:06 p.m.

Joan Liska, Kelsey Street

Ms. Liska expressed her concerns about the scarcity of fire hydrants in and around her residence and spoke of the devastating affects it has had in the past. She advised the commission that she would like to donate an inversion table to the fire department.

Dan Penney

Mr. Penney inquired about certain expenditures listed in the Monthly Expense Detail Report and asked if the larger expenditures were voted on and approved by the board. He urged the By-Laws Revision Committee to thoroughly review the charter prior to recommending changes to the by-laws. Mr. Penney reminded the commission that election records are to be secure. He also suggested a per diem, interim back-up staff member when administrative staff if not available.

5. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 7:16 p.m.

6. MINUTES TO BE ACCEPTED

a. Special Meeting of December 9, 2024

The minutes were accepted as presented.

b. Regular Monthly Meeting of December 9, 2024

The minutes were accepted as presented.

7. TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORTS – DECEMBER 2024

a. Refunds: \$11,987.72

MOTION to accept refunds in the amount of \$11,987.72 by Comm. Thazhampallath/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

b. Acceptance of the Tax Collector’s Reports

The Tax Collector’s Reports were accepted as presented.

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a. Monthly Expense Detail: November 2024 and December 2024
- b. Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual: July 2024 through December 2024
- c. Cash Balance Report: December 2024

The financial reports were accepted as presented.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – DECEMBER 2024

Chief Trzaski provided an overview of the administrative reports and answered questions of the commissioners. He emphasized and commended all the efforts and initiatives involving high fire danger. The chief reported that 3,000 pounds of food and monetary donations were donated to Amazing Grace Food Pantry by Local 3918 as a result of their food drive at Big Y. Annual apparatus maintenance has been completed. South Fire will be hosting this year's city-wide fire prevention poster contest awards ceremony. Chief Trzaski reminded the commission about the Employee and Citizen Awards Ceremony being held in January.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

a. Building Committee: Commissioner Thazhampallath

Commissioner Thazhampallath gave a brief update about the renovation project. Significant progress is being made. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in April/May 2005.

b. Pension Committee: Commissioner Gregorio Nothing new to report.

c. Public Safety Telecommunications: Commissioner Giuliano

Commissioner Giuliano was not present to provide an update; the reports are attached to the meeting packet for review. Chief Trzaski reported all three fire departments are now operating on one channel due to a restructuring of dispatch. This change will significantly enhance the safety of operations.

d. By-Laws Committee: Commissioner Giuliano

Chairwoman Kleckowski reported that the committee has begun meeting.

e. Riverfront Redevelopment Update: Commissioner Pessina

Commissioner Pessina provided a brief update.

Chief Trzaski advised the commission that Jackson Corrugated has been scheduled for demolition.

11. OLD BUSINESS

a. District Economic Development Updates

The commission discussed the youth soccer complex being built at the former CL&P service center site on Randolph Road and elaborated on the prospect of an on-site brewery run by Eli Cannon's.

12. NEW BUSINESS

a. Set hours for February 3, 2025 commissioner election

MOTION to set the hours for the February 3, 2025 commissioner election from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Gregorio. Unanimously approved.

13. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 8:27 p.m.

Dan Penney

Mr. Penney suggested that the commission identify a coordinator for FOI requests. He also reminded them that draft minutes must be available within 7 days of a meeting and action items must be available within 48 hours of a meeting. He told the commissioners that no votes should be taken in executive session, even the

vote to come out of executive session. The chairs disagreed with the comment. Mr. Penney thanked Commissioner Giuliano for his support of the new sports complex.

14. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION

Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 8:00 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Comm. Pessina/Comm. Gregorio. Unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Submitted by,

Alyse McEwen

Alyse McEwen
Recording Secretary

APPROVED 2/10/2025

The recording of this meeting is available upon request, according to Connecticut Freedom of Information Act requirements.