

SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT
445 Randolph Road | Middletown, CT

Board of Fire Commissioners
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Held at the firehouse and via Zoom - Meeting I.D. 812 5328 9412

Present: Commissioners Kleckowski, Giuliano, Thazhampallath (joined via phone at 7:02 p.m.), and Gregorio; Deputy Chief Fischer; fire department members, and one member of the public.

Absent: Chief Trzaski; Commissioner Pessina

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Kleckowski called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

3. ACCEPT/AMEND AGENDA

MOTION to amend the agenda under *New Business* to add *Appoint Father Kennedy as Chaplain of the South Fire District* and swear him in at a later date by Comm. Gregorio/Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved.

4. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 7:05 p.m.

Dan Penney

Mr. Penney told the commission that they did not follow Robert’s Rules of Order during the January monthly meeting by allowing a member of the public to speak about items *not* on the agenda during agenda item 4) Open Public Session – Items *on* the Agenda. He asked about two Eversource charges on the Monthly Expense Detail under 7201 – Electricity and again under 7203 – Heating. Mr. Penney wanted it on the record that he does not support using public funds on such things as cake and bagels, as noted on the Bank of America Purchase Details document.

5. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 7:05 p.m.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION to nominate Deb Kleckowski as chair and Seb Giuliano as vice-chair by Comm. Thazhampallath/Comm. Gregorio. There were no other nominations for chair or vice-chair. Unanimously approved.

MOTION to nominate Geen Thazhampallath as secretary by Comm. Kleckowski/Comm. Giuliano. There were no other nominations for secretary. Unanimously approved.

7. MINUTES TO BE ACCEPTED

a. Regular Monthly Meeting of January 13, 2025

The minutes were accepted as presented.

b. Annual Meeting of February 3, 2025

The minutes were accepted as presented.

8. TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORTS – JANUARY 2025

a. Refunds: \$1,066.85

MOTION to accept refunds in the amount of \$1,066.85 for January 2025 by Comm. Thazhampallath/Comm. Gregorio. Unanimously approved.

b. Acceptance of the Tax Collector’s Reports

The Tax Collector’s Reports were accepted as presented.

9. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a. Monthly Expense Detail: December 2024 and January 2025
- b. Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual: July 2024 through January 2025
- c. Cash Balance Report: January 2025

The financial reports were accepted as presented.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – JANUARY 2024

Deputy Chief Fischer provided an overview of the administrative reports and answered questions from the commissioners. He spoke in detail about the South Fire District earning a Class 2 rating by ISO, an increase of its previous Class 4 rating. He explained the comprehensive evaluation process that took place. Beginning March 1, 2025, residents and business owners may be eligible for lower insurance costs. A letter is being drafted to make the residents and businesses in the district aware of this possibility.

The deputy talked about the Safety Cloud transponders and subscriptions service purchased from HAAS Alert. The department purchased two transponders and two subscriptions for service for E32 and T34. The transponders send real-time digital alerts directly to nearby and approaching motorists allowing more time to slow down when approaching emergency vehicles. The goal is to purchase additional transponders for all the apparatus.

Deputy Chief Fischer told the commissioners that he has become a member of the Mayor’s Homelessness Task Force.

11. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

a. Building Committee: Commissioner Thazhampallath

Commissioner Thazhampallath gave an update about the renovation project. Significant progress is being made. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in late April or early May 2025.

b. Pension Committee: Commissioner Gregorio A meeting will be scheduled in the spring.

c. Public Safety Telecommunications: Commissioner Giuliano

Commissioner Giuliano provided an update. The reports are attached to the meeting packet for review.

d. By-Laws Committee: Commissioner Giuliano

Commissioner Giuliano advised the commission that the final meeting of the committee will be held on 2/11, unless the committee feels another is needed. The proposed changes will be presented to the commission for approval.

e. Riverfront Redevelopment Update: Commissioner Pessina

Commissioner Pessina was not present to provide an update.

12. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **District Economic Development Updates** There was nothing new to report.

13. NEW BUSINESS

a. Appoint Father Kennedy as Chaplain of the South Fire District

MOTION to appoint Father Kennedy as Chaplain of the South Fire District by Comm. Gregorio/Comm. Guiliano. Unanimously approved.

14. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 7:30 p.m.

Dan Penney

Mr. Penney commented on the excellent ISO report and rating. He asked for an update on the annual audit and said he believes the department is required to publicly advertise when the audit is complete and filed with the state.

15. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION

Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 7:32 p.m.

16. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Submitted by,

APPROVED 3/10/2025

Alyse McEwen

Alyse McEwen
Recording Secretary

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