

The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2010, at the Chester Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester. In attendance were Commissioners Joel Severance, Richard Schreiber, John Divis, Charlene Janecek and Peter Zanardi. Also in attendance were Ex-officio members Fire Chief Charles Greeney, Jr. and Fire Marshal Bernard Negrelli. Chairman Severance called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Item 1. Approval of January 20, 2010 Minutes

**Motion by Schreiber, second by Zanardi, to approve the January 20, 2010 Minutes as written. Voting in favor – Schreiber, Zanardi, Divis, Janecek, Severance. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.**

Item 2. Audience of Citizens – none.

Item 3. Report of Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Negrelli reported that as of the end of the day tomorrow he will have acquired 90 training hours to meet the State requirement. He noted he is still having a problem with his monitor and continues to receive communications from outside the Town of Chester. Negrelli also noted communications from Valley Shore have a lot of static and squelch. Both Chairman Severance and Chief Greeney noted the Town of Chester has gone to UHF. Chief Greeney indicated the Town does not use low band any more as the Federal Government is taking over low band. In order for Chester's fire and ambulance crews to communicate it must now be on UHF. Fire Marshal Negrelli noted he has been trying to contact Mike Scranton regarding the radio. Chairman Severance noted Fire Marshal Negrelli needs a radio that only gets the high band, UHF.

Chairman Severance asked Fire Marshal Negrelli to report on inspections. Negrelli replied all inspections are currently up to date. He noted he inspected the recent event held by River Tavern at the Gallery to determine the occupant load.

Fire Marshal Negrelli noted he had some concern regarding the outdoor dining sidewalk tables and was going to measure the sidewalk himself.

Item 4. Report of Fire Chief

Chief Greeney noted there was a barn/garage fire during the recent flooding down by the river. There was 2 feet of water in the road but they were able to get fire trucks through there. The barn had already burned to the ground upon arrival. Chief Greeney noted the State Police was called in and when they left, both the State Police and ATF were on the scene. Chairman Severance explained once the scene is deemed to be safe by the Fire Chief or Officer in Charge, it is turned over to the State Police if it is a crime scene. There was no insurance on the barn. Chief Greeney noted the trucks drafted from the middle of the road as it was flooded to a depth of about 2 feet due to the heavy rains. Severance noted when he arrived on the scene the excavator was along side the road and totally engulfed.

Richard Schreiber asked Chief Greeney when the decision is made not to go in to an area that is flooded. Chief Greeney replied when it puts the lives of the firemen in jeopardy. If that had been a river with a strong current, the force of the water has the potential of sliding the truck into the swamp.

This water was not flowing, there was no current.

Chairman Severance noted the Town of Chester reported \$1 ¼ million worth of damage. They are waiting for the Disaster Declaration.

Chief Greeney noted a private individual has donated to the Fire Company a 1970 duce and a half truck that will go through water of this magnitude without any problems. It is a 10 wheel truck with a 650 gallon tank and booster reel and pump. Greeney noted he felt the CHC should just run the truck as long as it will go and down the road if there are any huge capital expenditures required, it can be turned in for scrap at that time. The insurance shouldn't cost too much as only liability will be necessary.

**Motion by Janecek, second by Schreiber, to accept the donation of a duce and a half vehicle.**

Discussion followed. Chief Greeney noted this vehicle can be used in the State Forest for brush fire season. They already have a place to park it. The vehicle will probably not be available for another year. **Voting in favor – Janecek, Schreiber, Divis, Zanardi, Severance. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.**

Item 5. Report of First Selectman – none.

Item 6. Report of Emergency Management Director – none.

Item 7. Financial Report

(a) 2009-2010 Budget

Chief Greeney noted the 2009-2010 budget looks good and everything should be fine until the end of the fiscal year as long as nothing major occurs.

(b) 2010-2011 Budget

Commission members reviewed the 2010-2011 Proposed Operational Budget. Chief Greeney noted the only items that were increased were Salaries, Outside Clerical, Data Processing and Equipment Maintenance. The total increase for 2010-2011 was \$1,614. Chief Greeney reviewed the individual line items. **Motion by Divis, second by Schreiber, to approve the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2010/2011 in the amount of \$222,686.00. Voting in favor – Divis, Schreiber, Zanardi, Janecek, Severance. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.**

The Capital Budget Planning Sheets were reviewed. **Motion by Janecek, second by Divis, to approve the Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2010/2011 as presented. Voting in favor – Janecek, Divis, Zanardi, Schreiber, Severance. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.**

Item 8. Old Business

(a) Fire House Expansion

Chief Greeney gave a progress update on the fire house expansion project. Things are moving right along. Chief Greeney noted there probably will be a “buy a brick” program but they haven't gotten too far in planning for this yet.

(b) Water Street Bridge, Waterhole Project

It was noted the plan for this project has been resubmitted to the State.

It was noted the Middlesex Avenue Bridge is tentatively scheduled for opening the end of May with only one lane for about a month until it can be completed.

Chief Greeney noted he spoke to Errol Horner from the Land Trust about putting in a gazebo near the picnic table at the Carini Preserve. Greeney reviewed the area to be sure there will still be enough room to get a fire truck through there.

Item 9. New Business

(a) Marine Emergency Exercise

Chairman Severance reported the Marine Emergency Exercise is tentatively scheduled for sometime in May. The date needs to be finalized as the Coast Guard needs lead time to get things ready. Severance noted every year they are required to do an emergency response exercise. The Lady Catherine operating out of Haddam in conjunction with the Goodspeed has been requested to participate in this exercise. The protocol for such an exercise has been rewritten and will be tested at this exercise. Severance noted the Fire Chief is in charge of the scene and the Captain is in charge of the actual boat. It is a shared responsibility. Chairman Severance noted everything is on track for this, but the dates must be finalized.

(b) March 2010 Disaster

Chairman Severance noted the Town has filed with FEMA for a total of \$1 ¼ million worth of damage in town. This amount is made up of \$1.195 million for complete rebuild (including new bridge) for Dock Road and Hoop Pole Hill Road, Goose Hill Road and Story Hill Road for varying degrees of repair from sustained damage. The Town must meet both State and County levels in order to be eligible for a Declaration of Disaster. Severance noted they are confident the President will sign the Emergency Disaster Declaration. At that time, FEMA will come back to Town to finalize all the details. There are 3 businesses (Herbary, Abbott and former Chester Bank Building) and one resident (Middlesex Avenue) filing claims.

Chief Greeney reviewed some of the incidents where they gave assistance to residents.

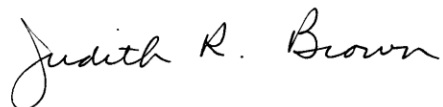
Chairman Severance reviewed conditions of the dams in Town. There were 4 that showed signs of possible problems. DEP sent in a Dam Safety Engineer to look at the dams. The one dam above the center of Town has a Class 2 risk which means they will demand it be engineered and fixed, but that will come from the State. The Goodspeed dam is scheduled to be fixed probably in July and August. Chairman Severance reviewed the low risk dams which are classified as such because there is no water above them. Severance reiterated the only one of real concern is the one behind the Historical Society building. It was noted it is the dam owner's responsibility to repair a dam.

Item 10. Adjournment

**Motion by Zanardi, second by Schreiber, to adjourn at 8:48 PM. Voting in favor – Zanardi, Schreiber, Divis, Janecek, Severance. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.**

Chester Board of Fire Commissioners  
Regular Meeting, April 21, 2010  
Page 4 of 4

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith R. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary