

The Chester Board of Fire Commissioners held its regular meeting on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, at the Chester Fire House, 6 High Street, Chester. In attendance and seated were Joel Severance, Richard Schreiber, John Divis, Charlene Janecek and Peter Zanardi. Ex-Officio Member Fire Chief Charles Greeney, Jr. was also present. Chairman Severance called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Item 1: Approval of November 28, 2009 Minutes

Motion by Schreiber, second by Zanardi, to approve November 18, 2009 Minutes as written. Voting in favor – Schreiber, Zanardi, Divis, Janecek, Severance. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.

Item 2: Audience of Citizens

Ed Horstmeyer, 16 Gilbert Hill Road, was present. He reviewed an occurrence that happened to him back in September in the hopes it would not happen to any one else. Mr. Horstmeyer explained he was experiencing severe chest pain and reviewed in detail the sequence of events that transpired including the 911 call, intercepting the paramedic en-route, arrival of the Deep River Ambulance and his arrival at the hospital some 40 minutes after the initial call. Chief Greeney then reviewed the standard operating procedure for ambulance calls. He noted there must be two individuals available, an EMT and MRT certified to drive. He then reviewed the tones that go out and that after the third and final tone, automatic mutual aid is called and that is usually 4 to 5 minutes after the initial tone. Chief Greeney noted the specific call in question occurred on September 5th at 1 AM. The call was dispatched at 01:02 AM, the paramedic was with the patient at 01:13 AM at Route 154 in Deep River, the Deep River Ambulance arrived at that scene at 01:29 AM and the ambulance arrived at the Shoreline Clinic at 01:35 AM. Mr. Horstmeyer noted he thought that was a little long to him. Chief Greeney noted the State of Connecticut says on the average an ambulance should get to someone in 20 minutes. It would be nice if someone was always sitting at the Fire House ready to go, but that does not always happen. Greeney noted the Town of East Haddam looked into having a commercial ambulance service available 24/7, but would cost the Town \$500,000 a year. Chief Greeney indicated the Town of Chester does have a paid staff on during the day because there are few volunteers available during the day. Greeney noted the State is short about 6000 EMT's. To become an EMT you must take 180 hours of class and every 3 years a 35 hour refresher class. A paramedic is a two year class after one becomes an EMT.

Chief Greeney noted the Chester Hose Company is always trying to do better. Chairman Severance noted there has been a 40 percent increase in calls over the last five years. Greeney noted Chester currently has 17 EMT's and 5 MRT's. Severance reiterated paid medical people are brought in during the day.

Peter Zanardi suggested Mr. Horstmeyer attend the budget meetings. The Hose Company can only do so much. It is limited with what it can do with the funds it is allocated. Chief Greeney reviewed donations and the things they have pursued through those donations.

Mr. Horstmeyer thanked everyone for their time and allowing him to voice his concerns and comments.

Item 3: Report of Fire Marshal

No report was available.

Chairman Severance noted he has had communications with the State Fire Marshal and they are willing to work with us. If someone is interested in being a Fire Marshal, the Town must guarantee that individual a job upon completion of training. It was noted there are some courses coming up. Chief Greeney noted there are 3 individuals who have expressed an interest but are wondering when the classes are being held.

Item 4: Report of Fire Chief

Chief Greeney noted the number of calls is phenomenal. The calls are non-stop, sometimes as many as six a day. Nursing and convalescent homes are attributable to about 80 percent of the calls. Chief Greeney noted new tires had been put on the ambulance and some work done on the front end. He also noted \$110,000 had been turned back to the Town last year from ambulance activity. Chief Greeney noted other local towns are considering putting on paid ambulance staff where there currently is none.

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 budget is doing fine, currently under 50 percent spent. The Suburban had some work done on the front end.

Chairman Severance noted the 2010-2011 Budget should be added to next month's Agenda.

Item 8: Old Business

(a) Fire House Expansion

Chief Greeney noted they went before the Planning & Zoning Commission for Section 8-24 Review and Report of Municipal Improvement. There were questions regarding outside lighting and parking. All questions were answered. Planning & Zoning members didn't see any problem and unanimously voted to recommend the project to the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Severance commended Chief Greeney on a great presentation to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Good job done by all involved.

Fund raising was briefly reviewed. This will be discussed again next month.

Chairman Severance asked when construction was going to start. Chief Greeney replied probably beginning of March depending on the weather.

Chairman Severance asked what items/services were being donated. Chief Greeney noted the following is being donated – concrete for footings and walls, machinery for ground work, labor and leaching field work.

Item 9: New Business – none.

Item 10: Adjournment

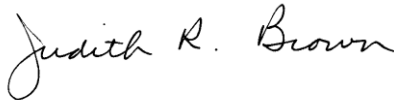
Motion by Schreiber, second by Zanardi, to adjourn at 8:12 PM. Voting in favor – Schreiber, Zanardi, Divis, Janecek, Severance. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.

Meeting was reconvened at 8:22 PM. All members as stated above were present.

Motion by Schreiber, second by Zanardi, to reaffirm all motions and votes taken at the November 18, 2009 Meeting. Voting in favor – Schreiber, Zanardi, Divis, Janecek, Severance. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.

Motion by Janecek, second by Zanardi, to adjourn at 8:25 PM. Voting in favor – Janecek, Zanardi, Divis, Schreiber, Severance. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary