

SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT
445 Randolph Road | Middletown, CT

Board of Fire Commissioners
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Held at the firehouse and via Zoom - Meeting I.D. 837 4051 1416

Present: Commissioners Kleckowski, Giuliano, Thazhampallath, Pessina (via Zoom), Gregorio; Chief Trzaski; Deputy Chief Fischer; staff members and members of the public

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

3. ACCEPT/AMEND AGENDA

MOTION to accept the agenda by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Gregorio. Unanimously approved.

4. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION (ITEMS ON THE AGENDA)

Commissioner Kleckowski opened the public session at 7:10 p.m. No one wished to speak.

5. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION

Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 7:12 p.m.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Thazhampallath moved to nominate Commissioner Kleckowski as chair of the South Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners, seconded by Commissioner Giuliano.

Commissioner Pessina moved to close nominations for chair. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Giuliano moved for the secretary to cast one ballot for Commissioner Kleckowski. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Thazhampallath moved to nominate Commissioner Giuliano as vice-chair of the South Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners, seconded by Commissioner Gregorio.

Commissioner Pessina moved to close the nominations for vice-chair, seconded by Commissioner Gregorio.

Commissioner Kleckowski moved for the secretary to cast one ballot. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Gregorio moved to nominate Commissioner Thazhampallath as secretary, seconded by Commissioner Giuliano.

Commissioner Pessina moved to close the nominations for secretary, seconded by Commissioner Giuliano.

Commissioner Giuliano moved for the secretary to cast one ballot, seconded by Commissioner Gregorio. Unanimously approved.

7. MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

a. REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2023

MOTION to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 9, 2023, 2022 by Comm. Pessina/Comm. Giuliano. Voting was as follows:

Commissioner Kleckowski	Aye
Commissioner Giuliano	Aye
Commissioner Thazhampallath	Aye
Commissioner Pessina	Aye
Commissioner Gregorio	Abstained

The motion passed with four ayes and one abstention.

8. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORTS – JANUARY 2023

a. REFUNDS

MOTION to approve *Item 8a. Refunds* in the amount of \$12.75 for the Month of January 2023 by Comm. Thazhampallath/Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved.

b. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

The tax collector's reports were reviewed and unanimously accepted.

9. FINANCIAL REPORTS

a. MONTHLY EXPENSE DETAIL: DECEMBER 2022 AND JANUARY 2023

b. PROFIT & LOSS BUDGET VS. ACTUAL: JULY 2022 THROUGH JANUARY 2023

c. CASH BALANCE REPORT: JANUARY 2023

The financial reports were reviewed and unanimously accepted.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – JANUARY 2023

Chief Trzaski provided an overview of the January 2023 administrative reports.

11. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

a. BUILDING COMMITTEE: COMMISSIONER THAZHAMPALLATH

Commissioner Thazhampallath advised the commission that discussions and decisions need to be had/made regarding a lending institution to ensure the department has funds available to begin the second phase of the building renovation project.

b. PENSION COMMITTEE: COMMISSIONER KLECKOWSKI

A meeting is scheduled for May. Commissioner Kleckowski will provide the commission with the date and time once the specifics are solidified.

c. PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS: COMMISSIONER GIULIANO

Commissioner Giuliano provided a summary of the Public Safety Telecommunications meeting.

d. RIVERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE: COMMISSIONER PESSINA

There was no new pertinent information to report. Commissioner Pessina indicated that more details will possibly be available for next month's meeting.

12. OLD BUSINESS

a. MARINE 3 UPDATE

Lieutenant Zajac advised the commission that the committee has been confirming numbers and change requests with Metal Craft Marine and a finalized contract is expected by Thursday morning.

b. SFD RENOVATION PROJECT – PHASE II; ORGANIZATAION OF BUILDING COMMITTEE

A discussion took place regarding the composition of the prospective Building Committee, including the effect of having commissioners serving as committee members. Commissioner Thazhampallath is willing to serve as chairman of the committee but would refrain from voting on items brought before the commission. He urged the commissioners to actively seek members of the public who might be willing to serve on the committee.

13. NEW BUSINESS

a. DISCUSSION OF BUDGET PROMOTION- DEPUTY CHIEF FISCHER

Deputy Chief Fischer distributed to the commissioners a budget summary document which was delivered by the Hebron Board of Education to residents of the town (copy attached). He stated his opinion that the same type of document can be used to promote the South Fire District budget, suggesting it would be more effective in educating the taxpayers, in turn allowing them to make an informed decision when voting on the budget (vs. the traditional “save the date” postcard). This item will remain on the agenda and a decision will be forthcoming.

14. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Commissioner Kleckowski opened the public session at 7:45 p.m. No one wished to speak.

15. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION

Commissioner Kleckowski closed the public session at 7:45 p.m.

16. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Submitted by,

Alyse McEwen
Recording Secretary

APPROVED 3/13/23

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