

**SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT
of the City of Middletown
COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Individuals were able to join the meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing
Meeting I.D. 828 8750 6114**

MINUTES

Present: Commissioners Kleckowski, Thazhampallath, Giuliano, and Penney; Chief Howley, Deputy Chief Jacobs

1. CALL TO ORDER Commissioner Kleckowski called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION to nominate Commissioner Kleckowski as Chair by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Thazhampallath. Unanimously approved. Commissioner Giuliano moved to close nominations for Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Pessina. Unanimously approved.

MOTION to nominate Commissioner Giuliano as Vice-Chair by Comm. Thazhampallath/Comm. Kleckowski. Unanimously approved. Commissioner Pessina moved to close nominations for Vice-Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Giuliano.

MOTION to nominate Commissioner Thazhampallath as Secretary by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Pessina. Commissioner Pessina moved to close nominations for Secretary.

Commissioner Penney moved to nominate himself as Secretary. Commissioner Giuliano seconded.

Commissioner Giuliano called "point of order" – there were two nominees for Secretary.

Commissioner Giuliano moved to poll the Commissioners. Voting was as follows:

Commissioner Giuliano:	Commissioner Thazhampallath
Commissioner Penney:	Commissioner Penney
Commissioner Thazhampallath:	Commissioner Thazhampallath
Commissioner Kleckowski:	Commissioner Thazhampallath
Commissioner Pessina:	Commissioner Thazhampallath

Commissioner Thazhampallath was nominated Secretary.

4. ACCEPT/AMEND AGENDA

MOTION to amend the agenda to include "Appoint Recording Secretary for Pension Committee" under New Business by Chief Giuliano/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

MOTION to add "Wall Removal" as an action item under New Business by Comm. Pessina/Comm. Thazhampallath. Unanimously approved.

5. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the Public Session at 7:14 p.m. No one wished to speak.

- 6. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION** Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the Public Session at 7:04 p.m.
- 7. MINUTES TO BE APPROVED**
- A. SPECIAL MEETING OF APRIL 6, 2021**
MOTION to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2021 special meeting by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Thazhampallath. Commissioner Pessina abstained. Approved.
- B. REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 12, 2021**
MOTION to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2021 regular meeting by Comm. Giuliano/ Comm. Penney. Commissioner Pessina abstained. Approved.
- C. BUDGET MEETING OF APRIL 27, 2021**
MOTION to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2021 budget meeting by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Kleckowski. Commissioner Pessina abstained. Approved.
- D. ANNUAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1, 2021**
MOTION to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021 annual meeting by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Thazhampallath. Commissioner Pessina abstained. Approved.
- 8. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**
The Commission reviewed the Tax Collector's reports.
- A. TAX REFUNDS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL** – There were no refunds for the Month of April.
- B. MOTION** to approve the Tax Collector's report for the Month of April by Comm. Thazhampallath/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.
- 9. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS** were reviewed by the Commission.
MOTION to approve the monthly financial reports for the Month of April by Comm. Thazhampallath/ Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.
- 10. CHIEF'S REPORT**
Chief Howley reminded the Commission that this would be his last meeting prior to leaving the department. He said it was a very difficult decision to make after 40 years of service. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunities over the past several years and thanked everyone for their support.
- Chief Howley gave an overview of his report for the Month of April and answered questions of the Commission.
- 11. DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT**
Deputy Chief Jacobs gave an overview of his report for the Month of April and answered questions of the Commission.
- 12. FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE REPORTS**
The Commission reviewed the Fire Marshals' Office reports for the Month of April submitted by Fire Marshal Mastroianni and Deputy Fire Marshal Hurlbut.
- 13. CAPTAIN'S REPORT**
The Commission reviewed the report for the Month of April submitted by Captain Fischer.

14. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

A. BUILDING COMMITTEE

Commissioner Thazhampallath expressed his gratitude to Chief Howley for the work he has done to make sure the building renovation project progressed. He said the Chief has been very instrumental in every aspect of the project even though he was “passed the baton” when things were “messed up.” Chief Howley made the project a reality and deserves a great deal of credit.

Commissioner updated the Commission on the project. The project completion date is August 6-8, 2021.

MOTION to take down the dividing wall in-house by Comm. Pessina/Comm. Penney. Unanimously approved.

MOTION to authorize Chief Howley and Commissioner Kleckowski to submit a letter to the Mayor with carbon copies to the Common Council requesting funds from all possible money sources for a 100kw gas unit generator for South Fire District at an approximate cost of \$64,000 by Comm. Pessina/Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved.

B. PENSION COMMITTEE – COMM. KLECKOWSKI

Commissioner Kleckowski advised there has been no activity. A meeting is scheduled for this month.

C. PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS– COMM. GIULIANO

Commissioner Giuliano advised that the Public Safety Telecommunications report was attached to the meeting packet for review.

15. OLD BUSINESS

A. HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS FOR RETIREES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

Chief Howley reported no changes to date.

B. SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE

MOTION to proceed with the 20-year solar project contract by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Penney. Unanimously approved.

C. TAX COLLECTOR POSITION OPENING

MOTION to have Chief Howley formulate and execute a per diem contract for a Tax Collector to handle the statutory obligations by Comm. Thazhampallath/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

16. NEW BUSINESS

A. ACCEPTANCE OF UPSEU LOCAL 3919 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

MOTION to approve the July 1, 2019-June 30, 2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the South Fire District and Local 3919 of the UPSEU by Comm. Thazhampallath/Comm. Pessina. Approved. Commissioner Penney abstained.

B. APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARY FOR PENSION COMMITTEE

MOTION to appoint Kathy Kiley as recording secretary of the Pension Committee by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION to go into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. pursuant to statutes section 1-200(6)(A) and section 1-225(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue related to the Fire Chief’s position by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

Present in Executive Session were: Commissioners Kleckowski, Thazhampallath, Giuliano, Penney, and Pessina; Chief Howley.

MOTION to close Executive Session by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Kleckowski called the meeting back to order at 9:03 p.m.

18. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Submitted by,

Alyse McEwen, Recording Secretary

Approved 6/14/21