

**SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT**  
**445 Randolph Road | Middletown, CT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Held at the firehouse and via Zoom - Meeting I.D. 870 6717 7490**

**Present:** Commissioners Kleckowski, Giuliano, Thazhampallath, and Pessina; Chief Trzaski

**Absent:** Commissioner Gregorio

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited.

**3. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 7:06 p.m.

*Dan Penney, Chamberlain Hill Road*

Mr. Penney asked that when the CBA gets approved, it becomes available to the public. He recommended that the building project continues to be on the agenda as he continues to see wedges being used to hold doors open and there seems to be structural damage to one of the walls in the Community Room. Mr. Penney disagrees with the department spending district money on Christmas cards and postage. He reminded the commission that actions decided upon during executive session need to be voted on in public.

**4. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION** Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 7:11 p.m.

**5. ACCEPT/AMEND AGENDA**

**MOTION** to amend the agenda under New Business to add “Approval of the 2026 Schedule of Meetings” by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

**6. MINUTES TO BE ACCEPTED**

**a. Regular Monthly Meeting of December 8, 2025**

The minutes were accepted as presented.

**b. Special Meeting of December 17, 2025**

The minutes were accepted as presented.

**7. TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORTS – DECEMBER 2025**

**a. Tax Refunds**

**MOTION** to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$8,548.79 by Comm. Thazhampallath/Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved.

**b. Tax Collector’s Reports**

The Tax Collector’s Reports were accepted as presented.

**8. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**a. Monthly Expense Detail: November and December 2025**

**b. Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual: July 2025 through December 2025**

**c. Cash Balance Report: December 2025**

The financial reports were accepted as presented.

**9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – DECEMBER 2025**

Chief Trzaski thanked members of C Platoon for installing the bathroom tiles, which were donated by Milestone. Acoustic tiles will be installed in the Community Room and kitchen. The crack in the wall in the Community Room will be repaired with an expansion joint in the spring. The chief is looking into options for the doors in the Community Room. LT Lancia is retiring as of 2/17/26 and FF Monaghan has resigned and we are in the process of hiring two entry level firefighters. The chief drew the commission’s attention to the Fire Marshal’s Office highlights for 2025 and the training activities for December 2025. He believes that sending Christmas cards is a great way to build good public relations and offered to use he personal funds in the future if the commission decides to go in that direction.

**10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS – DECEMBER 2025**

**a. Pension Committee: Commissioner Gregorio**

In Commissioner Gregorio’s absence, Chairwoman Kleckowski advised that the new pension process is complete and is included in the collective bargaining agreement.

**11. Public Safety Telecommunications: Commissioner Giuliano**

**12. Riverfront Redevelopment Update: Commissioner Pessina**

**13. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. District Economic Development Updates**

Former Middlesex Health will be turned into an apartment complex.

**14. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Approval and execution of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the South Fire District of the City of Middletown and Local 3918 of the International Association of Firefighters.**

**MOTION** to approve and execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the South Fire District of the City of Middletown and Local 3918 of the International Association of Firefighters by Comm. Thazhampallath/ Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

**MOTION** to vacate the last vote on item 12 a) and substitute that with a motion to reject the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the South Fire District of the City of Middletown and Local 3918 of the International Association of Firefighters by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

**MOTION** to reject the contract by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously opposed; the motion to reject the contract failed.

**b. Approval of the 2026 Meeting Dates**

**MOTION** to approve the 2026 meeting dates by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION** to enter into executive session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 1-200(6)(A) and Section 1-225(a), as amended, to conduct a performance review of the fire chief by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

Executive Session began at 7:47 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Kleckowski, Giuliano, Thazhampallath, and Pessina; Chief Trzaski

The meeting was called back to order at 8:13 p.m. by Chairwoman Kleckowski.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** to adjourn by Comm. Pessina/Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

**MOTION** to reopen the meeting by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

**16. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 8:15 p.m.

Mr. Penney believes that it was disservice to the taxpayers to remove wording related to CGS on voting from the by-laws. He asked for an update on the auditor's report.

*(Parts of the recording during public session were inaudible.)*

*Kevin McDonnell, Local 3918 President*

President McDonnell thanked the commission and the administration for the collaborative efforts during CBA negotiations.

**17. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION**

Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 8:20 p.m.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** to adjourn by Comm. Pessina/Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by,

*Alyse McEwen*

Alyse McEwen  
Recording Secretary

**APPROVED 2/9/2026**

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