

SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT
445 Randolph Road | Middletown, CT

Board of Fire Commissioners
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Held at the firehouse and via Zoom - Meeting I.D. 897 1046 4663

Present: Commissioners Kleckowski, Pessina, Thazhampallath, and Gregorio; Chief Trzaski; member of the public, staff members

Absent: Commissioner Giuliano

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Kleckowski called the meeting to order at 7:58 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

3. ACCEPT/AMEND AGENDA

MOTION to amend the agenda to add the following item under New Business: *February 3, 2025 Annual Meeting - Review and Approval of Deadlines and Legal Notice* by Comm. Gregorio/Comm. Pessina.

Unanimously approved.

MOTION to amend the agenda to include under New Business: *Engagement of an ERISA Attorney to Review Pension Language* by Comm. Thazhampallath/Comm. Gregorio. Unanimously approved.

4. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 8:01 p.m.

Dan Penney

Mr. Penney notified the commission that he was recording the meeting. He followed up with the city regarding their Code of Ethics. South Fire is not an agency of the city; therefore, the city has no jurisdiction over ethics. He recommended one is adopted as soon as possible with an independent review board that has no connection to the district. Mr. Penney urged the commission to contact SEEC about compliance with CT General Statutes. He is disappointed that the commission would support removing the second public session from meeting agendas and encouraged them to vote against such a motion.

5. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 8:06 p.m.

6. MINUTES TO BE ACCEPTED

a. Regular Monthly Meeting of November 18, 2024

The minutes were accepted as presented.

7. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORTS – NOVEMBER 2024

a. Refunds: \$544.66

MOTION to accept refunds in the amount of \$544.66 by Comm. Thazhampallath/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

b. Acceptance of the Tax Collector's Reports

The Tax Collector's Reports were accepted as presented.

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a. Monthly Expense Detail: October 2024 and November 2024
- b. Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual: July 2024 through November 2024
- c. Cash Balance Report: November 2024

The financial reports were accepted as presented.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – NOVEMBER 2024

Chief Trzaski provided an overview of the administrative reports and answered questions of the commissioners. He emphasized and commended all the efforts and initiatives involving high fire danger. The chief reported that 3,000 pounds of food and monetary donations were donated to Amazing Grace Food Pantry by Local 3918 as a result of their food drive at Big Y. Annual apparatus maintenance has been completed. South Fire will be hosting this year's city-wide fire prevention poster contest awards ceremony. Chief Trzaski reminded the commission about the Employee and Citizen Awards Ceremony being held in January.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

a. **Building Committee: Commissioner Thazhampallath**

Commissioner Thazhampallath gave a brief update about the renovation project. Significant progress is being made. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in April/May 2005.

b. **Pension Committee: Commissioner Gregorio** Nothing new to report.

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

Commissioner Giuliano was not present to provide an update; the reports are attached to the meeting packet for review. Chief Trzaski reported all three fire departments are now operating on one channel due to a restructuring of dispatch. This change will significantly enhance the safety of operations.

d. **By-Laws Committee: Commissioner Giuliano**

Chairwoman Kleckowski reported that the committee has begun meeting.

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

Commissioner Pessina provided a brief update.

Chief Trzaski advised the commission that Jackson Corrugated has been scheduled for demolition.

11. OLD BUSINESS – None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Removal of *Public Session – Items Not on the Agenda***

No action was taken.

b. **February 3, 2025 Annual Meeting - Review and Approval of Deadlines and Legal Notice**

MOTION to accept the deadlines and legal notice by Comm. Pessina/Comm. Gregorio. Unanimously approved.

c. **Engagement of an ERISA Attorney to Review Pension Language**

MOTION to engage an ERISA attorney to review the pension language for contract negotiations by Comm. Pessina/Comm. Gregorio. Unanimously approved.

13. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 8:27 p.m. No one wished to speak.

14. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION

Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 8:27 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Submitted by,

APPROVED 1/13/2025

Alyse McEwen

Alyse McEwen
Recording Secretary

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