

SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT
445 Randolph Road | Middletown, CT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Held at the firehouse and via Zoom - Meeting I.D. 827 7632 1014

Present: Commissioners Kleckowski, Giuliano, and Thazhampallath; Chief Trzaski, Deputy Chief Fischer

Absent: Commissioners Pessina and Gregorio

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Kleckowski called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

3. ACCEPT/AMEND AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

4. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 7:09 p.m.

Dan Penney, Chamberlain Hill Road

Mr. Penney mentioned that according to the charter, a report on the affairs of the district should have been presented at the annual meeting. He inquired about tax sales and expressed concern that the monthly financial reports were not available for this meeting.

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

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION to nominate Deb Kleckowski as chairwoman of the South Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners by Comm. Thazhampallath/Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved.

MOTION to nominate Seb Giuliano as vice-chairman of the South Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners by Comm. Thazhampallath/Comm. Kleckowski. Unanimously approved.

MOTION to nominate Geen Thazhampallath as secretary of the South Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners by Comm. Kleckowski/Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved.

7. MINUTES TO BE ACCEPTED

a. Regular Monthly Meeting of January 12, 2026

The minutes were accepted as presented.

b. Annual Meeting of February 2, 2026

MOTION to accept the minutes of the annual meeting of the district, on behalf of the district, by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Thazhampallath. Unanimously approved.

c. Special Meeting of February 2, 2026

The minutes were accepted as presented.

8. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORTS – JANUARY 2026

a. Tax Refunds

MOTION to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$4,992.01 for the Month of January 2026 by Comm. Thazhampallath/Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved.

b. Tax Collector's Reports

The Tax Collector's Reports were accepted as presented.

9. FINANCIAL REPORTS

The financial reports were not submitted due to illness and therefore not included in the meeting packet. The reports will be submitted for acceptance at the March 9, 2026 monthly meeting.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – JANUARY 2026

The Kleen Energy memorial was held at the firehouse this year. There were approximately 80 people in attendance. The Commission on Fire Prevention and Control was recently restructured, which created opportunities for broader engagement by Connecticut's fire service, including the establishment of several subcommittees. The chairperson of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Education recently appointed Deputy Fire Marshal Ryan Parmelee to the subcommittee for Special Populations, Community Risk Reduction & Community Response, and Captain Andy Turenne was appointed to the Training, Education, and Continuing Development subcommittee. Chief Trzaski commended the administrative support staff for all their "behind the scenes" efforts. He spoke of the great relationships between the district and departments throughout the city.

Deputy Chief Fischer reported that all the apparatus is in service. Two firefighters have been hired out of 120 applicants. One of the probationary firefighters is currently attending the CT Fire Academy Recruit Program. The other has been assigned to a platoon as he is already recruit certified. Two divers and two tenders recently completed an ice diving class and they are now certified. The dive team coordinator position has been solidified. Firefighter DeFrancesco has been appointed.

Chief Trzaski said the "walking out" ceremony of Lieutenant Lancia was very well-attended. The district is hosting the Middlesex County Chiefs meeting at the department on Wednesday and the CT Fire Chiefs Association meeting being held at Cantina. The new boat has been painted and is currently being outfitted with the technology.

11. COMMISSIONER REPORTS – JANUARY 2026

a. Pension Committee: Commissioner Gregorio - Commissioner Gregorio was absent.

b. Public Safety Telecommunications: Commissioner Giuliano

Commissioner Giuliano provided a brief overview of the report which was included in the meeting packet.

c. Riverfront Redevelopment Update: Commissioner Pessina was absent. Chief Trzaski reported that the remediation of Peterson Oil and Jackson's Corrugated is moving forward.

12. OLD BUSINESS

a. District Economic Development Updates

Former Middlesex Health will be turned into an apartment complex. A gas station will be erected at the corner of Randolph Road and Saybrook Road.

13. NEW BUSINESS - None.

14. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 7:41 p.m.

Dan Penney

Mr. Penney remarked on the improvement of the acoustics in the Community Room and recommended that microphones be used as well. He suggested that the poll workers not write "AB" in the voting book when a person votes by absentee ballot. This violates voter privacy and eliminates the right for individuals to inspect the voting book. He expressed his concern about the low voting turnout and thinks the district should put more effort into alerting the public about elections and referendums.

15. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION

Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 7:48 p.m.

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Thazhampallath. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Submitted by,

ACCEPTED 3/9/2026

Alyse McEwen

Alyse McEwen
Recording Secretary

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