

**SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT**  
**445 Randolph Road | Middletown, CT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, April 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Held at the firehouse and via Zoom - Meeting I.D. 848 5078 7619**

**Present:** Commissioners Kleckowski, Giuliano, Pessina, Gregorio, and Thazhampallath (arrived at 7:06 p.m. and departed before executive session at 8:00 p.m.); Chief Trzaski and Deputy Chief Fischer

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairwoman Kleckowski called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

**3. ACCEPT/AMEND AGENDA**

MOTION to accept the agenda as published by Comm. Pessina/Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved.

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

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 7:02 p.m.

***Dan Penney***

Mr. Penney expressed disappointment regarding the timing and way the audit report was submitted to OPM, but appreciated the job well done by the auditor.

**5. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION** Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 7:03 p.m.

**6. REVIEW OF INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT - *Charles T. Costello, Costello & Company, LLC***

Mr. Costello gave an overview of the draft Independent Auditor’s Report/Financial Statements as of June 30, 2025.

Commissioner Thazhampallath requested that the minutes reflect his commendation of the department’s current fiscal health. He specifically highlighted the effective collection of taxes, the rigorous checks and balances for invoice processing, and the appropriate allocation of revenue. He also noted that the department is in its strongest financial and operational position in several years. He attributed this success to the diligent efforts of the commissioners and staff.

**MOTION** to accept the Independent Auditor’s Report as of June 30, 2025, as presented, and to authorize Costello Company, LLC to file the Independent Auditor’s Report/Financial Statements as of June 30, 2025 with the State of Connecticut/Office of Policy and Management in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes by Comm. Pessina/Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved.

**7. MINUTES TO BE ACCEPTED**

**a. Regular Monthly Meeting of March 9, 2026**

The minutes were accepted as presented.

**b. Special Meeting of March 31, 2026**

The minutes were accepted as presented.

**8. TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORTS – MARCH 2026**

**a. Tax Refunds**

**MOTION** to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$15,891.19 for the Month of March 2026 by Comm. Pessina/Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved.

**b. Tax Collector’s Reports**

The Tax Collector’s Reports were accepted as presented.

**9. FINANCIAL REPORTS – MARCH 2026**

The financial reports were accepted as presented.

**10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – MARCH 2026**

Chief Trzaski and Deputy Chief Fischer provided an overview of the administrative reports.

**11. COMMISSIONER REPORTS – MARCH 2026**

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

Commissioner Giuliano provided an overview of the report.

**b. Riverfront Redevelopment Update: Commissioner Pessina – nothing new to report.**

**12. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. District Economic Development Updates – nothing new to report.**

**b. Discussion/Possible Change of Previously Scheduled Budget Meeting Dates and Referendum**

**MOTION** to accept the proposed budget meeting/referendum dates in Option 1 as presented:

- Budget Referendum                      Tuesday, June 9, 2026                      8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
  - Budget Workshop                      Thursday, May 14, 2026                      6:00 p.m.
  - Public Hearing                      Thursday, May 21, 2026                      6:00 p.m.
  - Budget Meeting                      Thursday, May 21, 2026                      *(immediately following the  
(adopt budget/set mill rate)                      public hearing)*
- A public notice will be published in the Middletown Press on April 20<sup>th</sup> to announce new budget meeting and referendum dates. Include wording that applications for absentee ballots will be accepted starting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12 noon.
  - A legal notice will be published in the Middletown Press between May 30<sup>th</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup> (5-10 days prior to referendum).
  - The budget referendum reminder will be mailed to all residents of the district on June 1<sup>st</sup> or June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**13. NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Gregorio asked that the Pension Committee be reinstated to include Chief Trzaski as the facilitator, himself as a member of the fire commission, Kathy Kiley as recording secretary, and two Local 3918 members to be determined.

**MOTION** to establish a Pension Committee as Commissioner Gregorio described as a standing sub-committee of the Board of Fire Commissioners by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

**14. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

Executive session began at 8:00 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Kleckowski, Giuliano, Pessina, and Gregorio; Chief Trzaski, and Deputy Chief Fischer.

Executive session ended at 8:48 and the meeting was called back to order by Chairwoman Kleckowski.

No action was taken.

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

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 8:49 p.m.

***Dan Penney***

Mr. Penney reiterated his concerns about the doors being propped open, the draft budget not being available in advance of the budget meetings, the lack of publicly advertised bids, and the CT statutes wording being removed from the by-laws. He also recommended the purchase of an outside bulletin board.

**16. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION**

Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 8:54 p.m.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** to adjourn by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Submitted by,

*Alyse McEwen*

Alyse McEwen  
Recording Secretary

**ACCEPTED 5/11/2026**

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