

**SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT
445 RANDOLPH ROAD
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457**

**Board of Fire Commissioners
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
Monday, April 28, 2025
Immediately following the 6:00 p.m. Budget Workshop**

Held at the firehouse and available via Zoom - Meeting ID 835 0610 3500

Present: Commissioners Kleckowski, Giuliano, Thazhampallath (via Zoom), Pessina, and Gregorio; Chief Trzaski, Deputy Chief Fischer, Tax Collector Lee Matterazzo, Budget Analyst Kathy Kiley

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Kleckowski called the meeting to order at 6:24 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. PUBLIC HEARING

Dan Penney

Mr. Penney requested a copy of the organizational chart and would also like to see a detailed spreadsheet on CNR. He indicated that even though the auditor recommends having 6 months of reserves, which was previously 3 months, the monies could be used to offset some of the expenses. Although there is no increase in the mill rate, there is more than an 8% increase in spending. Mr. Penney would like to have an estimate of the impact the new Collective Bargaining Agreement has on the budget. He suggested commissioner compensation be removed from the budget. Mr. Penney mentioned that the newer equipment should be under warranty resulting in additional savings. He mentioned that some fire districts are created through special acts and others are statutory districts and suggested that the commissioners look into the difference.

Commissioner Gregorio responded by saying he would never agree to get rid of commissioner compensation. Receiving a stipend makes them employees of the district preventing them from being personally sued. Commissioner Giuliano added that if the commissioners weren't legally covered by the district, they would be compelled to purchase elected official coverage, which is very expensive. Commissioner Pessina agrees that the compensation should not be eliminated.

4. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Submitted by,

APPROVED 5/12/2025

Alyse McEwen

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Recording Secretary