

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

**Board of Fire Commissioners
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
Monday, April 28, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.**

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 6:01 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Chief Trzaski and Deputy Chief Fischer provided an overview of the proposed budget and answered questions of the commissioners. Chief Trzaski said it is very unlikely we will be able to collect motor vehicle taxes due to the city's proposed 32.8 mill rate and the State of CT 32.46 mill rate cap on motor vehicles. However, we are fortunate that the PILOT funding has increased from \$710,000 to \$879,971. Martin Heft, OPM Undersecretary of Intergovernmental Policy & Planning Division, confirmed the PILOT funds are in the state's current budget. The chief sent him an email asking for reconfirmation. The challenge is that we won't receive the funds until October.

The increase in the proposed budget is \$352,637, without CNR. The increases are mainly due to insurance premiums, salaries, contractual obligations, and worker's compensation insurance. He suggested excess PILOT funds be put into CNR to start funding apparatus replacement and other big-ticket items. PILOT funding is a result of many years of not receiving reimbursement for service to CVH. The commissioners agreed that it is fiscally responsible to invest any excess PILOT funding in CNR while we have the opportunity since the state has a two-year budget and it is unknown what will happen when it expires.

The commissioners were pleased with the proposed budget at this point.

The budget workshop ended at 6:23 p.m.

Submitted by,

Alyse McEwen

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Recording Secretary

APPROVED 5/12/2025