

SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT
445 Randolph Road | Middletown, CT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Held at the firehouse and via Zoom - Meeting I.D. 820 2555 2574

Present: Commissioners Kleckowski, Giuliano, Pessina, and Thazhampallath; Chief Trzaski, Deputy Chief Fischer
Absent: Commissioner Gregorio

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Kleckowski called the meeting to order at 7:15 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 7:16 p.m. No one wished to speak.

5. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 7:16 p.m.

6. MINUTES TO BE ACCEPTED

a. Regular Monthly Meeting of April 13, 2026

The minutes were accepted as presented.

7. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORTS – APRIL 2026

a. Tax Refunds

MOTION to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$257.79 Comm. Thazhampallath/Comm. Pessina.
Unanimously approved.

b. Tax Collector's Reports

The Tax Collector's Reports were accepted as presented.

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS – APRIL 2026

The financial reports were accepted as presented.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – APRIL 2026

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

10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS – APRIL 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.

11. OLD BUSINESS

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

12. NEW BUSINESS

a. Engine Committee: Overview of Apparatus and Financing (action is possible)

MOTION to move forward with procuring a South Fire District pumper, utilizing the vendor Pierce Manufacturing, and to approve all associated financing related to the projected costs outlined in the chief's May 7, 2026 email, by Comm. Thazhampallath/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

13. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 7:42 p.m. No one wished to speak.

14. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION

Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 7:42 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Submitted by,

ACCEPTED 6/8/2026

Alyse McEwen

Alyse McEwen
Recording Secretary

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

Replacement Pumper

From James Trzaski <jamestrzaski@southfiredistrict.com>

Date Thu 5/7/2026 2:04 PM

To Deb Kleckowski <DKleckowski@southfiredistrict.com>; Geen Thazhampallath <GThazhampallath@southfiredistrict.com>; Philip J. Pessina <ppessina@southfiredistrict.com>; Sebastian Giuliano <sgiuliano@southfiredistrict.com>; William Gregorio <wfgregorio@southfiredistrict.com>

Cc Nicholas Fischer <nfischer@southfiredistrict.com>; Alyse McEwen <Alyse@southfiredistrict.com>; Kathy Kiley <KKiley@southfiredistrict.com>

 1 attachment (80 KB)

HGAC pricing.docx;

Greetings,

Attached, you will find a sheet that explains the HGAC program. South Fire used this program in the past, and it is a legal and more efficient way of getting pricing on a new pumper.

Currently our committee has been working with Firematic, the vendor we used for Engine 32.

Pierce Manufacturing offers a program that includes 4.7% on our money if we pay the cost pumper up front.

Current cost of a new pumper is between 1 to 1.3 million dollars industry wide
SFD Spec is approximately \$1,215,000.00

Pumpers are now averaging a 30-month lead time for build out.

Industry cost increases have averaged 10% annually.

If we secure the pumper now by paying upfront, we would realize the following savings:

Pumper Cost	1.2 Million Dollars
Projected increase over 24 months	1.45 Million Dollars assuming an annual increase of 10%

The savings of 100% payment upon contract signing	\$183,845.00
75% Payment would be	\$151,205.00
50% Payment would be	\$102,418.00

When you couple the prepayment savings with the projected annual inflation increases we can have a savings of approximately

Annual 10% increase over 2 years	\$ 252,000.00
Payment at time of contract	\$183,845.00

Total savings to the district of	\$ 435,845.00
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We would like to present this during our administrative reports.

Please let us know your thought and opinions

Chief James Trzaski

James P Trzaski

Fire Chief

South Fire District

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Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together. ”

Please be advised that all emails to and from the South Fire District are subject to FOI request

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South Fire District Office of the Fire Chief



The South Fire District Engine Replacement Committee has been meeting over the last couple months. The committee has finalized the plans for a pumper.

We wish to use the HGAC program to move forward with the project. South Fire used HGAC to purchase Engine 32.

The program is proven to save time and money as you are using a competitive bid program that is nationwide. Below are facts about the program:

1. Legally Compliant & Bid-Exempt

- HGACBuy satisfies competitive procurement requirements through a nationally recognized cooperative contract.
- Aligns with Connecticut municipal purchasing statutes, reducing legal exposure.
- Eliminates the need to draft, advertise, and evaluate a full RFP/bid process locally.

2. Significant Time Savings

- Traditional apparatus bids can take 6–12 months before awarding.
- HGAC allows us to move directly to specification and ordering, accelerating delivery timelines.
- Critical in today's environment where apparatus lead times can exceed 2–3 years

3. Cost Control & Purchasing Power

- HGAC leverages volume pricing from nationwide purchases, often yielding better or equal pricing than standalone bids.
- Pricing is pre-negotiated and locked in, reducing risk of escalation.
- Avoids hidden costs associated with bid management, legal review, and re-bidding

4. Specification Flexibility Without Sacrificing Compliance

- We still build a custom spec for South Fire District's operational needs.
- Not locked into a "one-size-fits-all" apparatus.
- Ability to work directly with vetted manufacturers like Pierce Manufacturing under the HGAC contract.

5. Proven, Trusted Procurement Method

- Used by thousands of fire departments nationwide.
- Common among Connecticut departments for apparatus, equipment, and ambulances.
- Reduces risk—this is a well-established, audited procurement pathway.

6. Transparency & Accountability

- All pricing, contracts, and vendor performance are publicly available.
- Meets expectations for fiscal responsibility and public trust.
- Clear audit trail for municipal and district review.

7. Reduces Administrative Burden

- Less staff time spent on:
 - Drafting bid documents
 - Managing vendor questions
 - Reviewing submissions
- Allows command staff to stay focused on operations and service delivery.

8. Faster Path to Replacement = Reduced Risk

- Our current apparatus age/condition 2007 makes timing critical.
- HGAC helps us replace frontline equipment sooner, improving:
 - Reliability
 - Firefighter safety
 - ISO rating considerations

9. Market Stability in a Volatile Industry

- Fire apparatus market is experiencing:
 - Supply chain delays
 - Price volatility
- HGAC contracts help stabilize pricing and secure build slots sooner.