

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

**Board of Fire Commissioners
SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

Held at the firehouse and available via Zoom - Meeting ID 834 6399 2071

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

Absent: Commissioner Thazhampallath

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Kleckowski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. PUBLIC SESSION

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 6:01 p.m.

Dan Penney

Mr. Penney thanked the staff for all their hard work on the budget. The budget documents should have been made available prior to the meeting so the public could be better prepared for the meeting. He reminded the commission that according to CT FOIA, action items need to be available within 48 hours and meeting minutes within 7 days. Mr. Penney feels commissioner stipends should be eliminated, which could eliminate \$8,000+ from the budget. The district could purchase general liability insurance to have coverage for the commissioners. He researched the statutes and found that commissioners are not considered employees in the State of Connecticut. Mr. Penney asked what impact the new union contract will have on the budget and how the managerial and executive exempt staff's increases were determined as he doesn't recall a vote of the commission. He believes that the PILOT funds were enough in of itself to benefit taxpayers. Although the budget is lean, there is still an 8.89% increase in spending.

4. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION

Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 6:05 p.m.

5. ADOPT BUDGET/SET MILL RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026

The commissioners thanked the staff for their efforts in preparing the budget and are pleased that the mill rate has held steady for three consecutive years. All commissioners fully support the proposed budget and are confident the taxpayers will as well.

MOTION to adopt the budget as published and set the mill rate for real estate and personal property at 5.311 and the mill rate for motor vehicles at 0.00 by Comm. Guiliano/Comm. Pessina.

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6. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Submitted by,

APPROVED 6/9/2025

Alyse McEwen

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Recording Secretary