

SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT
445 Randolph Road | Middletown, CT

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Held at the firehouse and via Zoom - Meeting I.D. 898 9562 3167

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 7:03 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

3. ACCEPT/AMEND AGENDA

MOTION to accept the agenda as presented by Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved.

4. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 7:04 p.m. There were no members of the public in attendance.

5. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 7:04 p.m.

6. MINUTES TO BE ACCEPTED

- a. **Regular Monthly Meeting of June 8, 2026**
- b. **Budget Referendum of June 9, 2026**
- c. **Special Meeting of June 9, 2026**

The minutes were all accepted as presented.

7. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORTS – JUNE 2026

a. Tax Collector's Reports

The Tax Collector's Reports were accepted as presented.

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS – JUNE 2026

The financial reports were accepted as presented.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – JUNE 2026

The commissioners reviewed and accepted the administrative reports as presented.

Commissioner Thazhampallath shared his deep concerns regarding the hazardous intersection of South Main Street and Highland Avenue, noting there have been fatal accidents there in the past. He encouraged the chiefs to open communication, possibly with the Department of Transportation to explore ways to reduce the risk of accidents at the intersection.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS – JUNE 2026

a. Public Safety Telecommunications: Commissioner Giuliano

Commissioner Giuliano provided an overview of the activities of PST.

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

11. OLD BUSINESS

a. District Economic Development Updates

Chairwoman Kleckowski noted that Pastaio Restaurant is now open.

12. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion and possible action regarding the CNR purchase of a fit test machine

Deputy Chief Fischer explained the request made by Captain Turenne to purchase an updated respiratory fit testing machine to replace SFD's outdated and no longer operational machine, which limits the ability to efficiently conduct mandated OSHA requirements for personnel to be fit tested prior to initial use and at least annually thereafter. The Fire Tech & Safety purchase price for the OHD Quanti-Fit 2 Respirator Fit Testing System is \$10,955.00, with an estimated annual calibration and service cost of approximately \$1,250.00. Fire Tech & Safety has offered a \$1,500 trade-up discount for our inoperable TSI Fit Test Machine.

The deputy explained that an SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) fit test machine is a device that ensures a firefighter's full facepiece regulator mask has a perfect, airtight seal. OSHA requires all firefighters to pass this test every year to ensure there are no gaps that can let in smoke and toxic gases during a fire. The firefighter puts on their mask, which is hooked up to the machine. They are guided through exercises to test the seal, including deep breathing, moving their head, talking, and bending over. If a mask fails any part of the test, it legally cannot be used until the mask is adjusted or resized. Our current machine has undergone routine inspections and maintenance; however, it has reached the end of its lifespan.

MOTION to move forward the proposal to purchase by Comm. Thazhampallath/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

13. 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 discuss the fire chief's employment agreement by Comm. Pessina/Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved.

Executive session began at 7:24 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Kleckowski, Giuliano, Pessina, Gregorio, and Thazhampallath; Chief Trzaski.

Executive session ended at 7:46 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Chairwoman Kleckowski called the regular meeting back to order in open session at 7:46 p.m.

MOTION to accept the chief's contract as presented by Comm. Pessina/Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved.

14. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 7:46 p.m. There were no members of the public in attendance.

15. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION

Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 7:46 p.m.

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Comm. Pessina/Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Submitted by,

Alyse McEwen

Alyse McEwen, Recording Secretary

ACCEPTED 8/10/2026