

SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT
445 Randolph Road | Middletown, CT
Board of Fire Commissioners
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Held at the firehouse and via Zoom - Meeting I.D. 860 9733 5335

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

Absent: Commissioner Thazhampallath

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Kleckowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

3. ACCEPT/AMEND AGENDA

MOTION to accept the agenda as presented by Comm. Gregorio/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

4. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 7:01 p.m. No one wished to speak.

5. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 7:01 p.m.

6. MINUTES TO BE ACCEPTED

a. Regular Monthly Meeting of June 9, 2025

b. Budget Meeting of June 17, 2025

The minutes were accepted as presented.

7. TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORTS – JUNE 2025

a. **Refunds: \$145.04**

MOTION to accept refunds in the amount of \$145.04 for June 2025 by Comm. Gregorio/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved.

b. **Tax Collector’s Reports**

The Tax Collector’s Reports were accepted as presented.

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS

a. **Monthly Expense Detail: May 2025 and June 2025**

b. **Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual: July 2024 through June 2025**

c. **Cash Balance Report: June 2025**

The financial reports were accepted as presented. Chief Trzaski advised the commissioners that we are waiting for reimbursement from the state to compensate for the CNR expenditures.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – MAY 2025

Chief Trzaski advised that much focus was on the move into the new office space during June and July. He updated the commission on the issues at Stonegate, which seem to have subsided. He attended multiple labor/management meetings for negotiations with Local 3918. He spoke about the success of the FMO’s adult and juvenile fire setters’ program, which is being used nationwide. The chiefs will be cooking breakfast at the Senior Center on 9/26. Chief Trzaski once again applauded the department members for all they do both at the firehouse and in the community. The new patio was built by the staff on their own time and their own dime. Firefighter McDonnell took the lead on the project.

Deputy Chief Fischer gave a brief overview of vehicle repairs. He said the building of the new boat is coming along nicely and he anticipates another visit to Canada in the next few weeks. Delivery is expected before Thanksgiving. The deputy gave an update on the installation of a dry hydrant on Bear Hill Road. They are waiting for final approval from state. The City of Middletown will help with the funding by constructing a pull-off area for the apparatus. He advised the commission that the written test for lieutenant was held today. All nine candidates passed and the oral test will be on Wednesday. The plan is to have the testing process every two years to keep the list current.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS – JUNE & JULY 2025

a. Building Committee: Commissioner Thazhampallath

Chief Trzaski provided an update of the building project. Everything is progressing nicely, and the expected completion date is mid-September.

b. Pension Committee: Commissioner Gregorio

• **Discussion of Beirne Group as advisors for retirement plans**

MOTION to hire the Beirne Group as advisors for retirement plans by Comm. Gregorio/Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved.

c. Public Safety Telecommunications: Commissioner Giuliano

The PST reports are included in the meeting packet. Staffing is at 19 with one in training.

d. Riverfront Redevelopment Update: Commissioner Pessina - There is nothing new to report.

11. OLD BUSINESS

a. District Economic Development Updates

A brief discussion took place regarding potential new businesses in the district: a coffee shop and bakery in Tradewinds Plaza, a credit union on the former Midstate Tractor property, and a commercial apples and pear growing business. There is a potential buyer for John's Restaurant.

12. NEW BUSINESS

a. Employment Status: Probationary Firefighters Jesse Monaghan and Kevin Whalen

MOTION to transition Firefighters Jesse Monaghan and Kevin Whalen from probationary employment status to permanent employment status effective 8/12/2025 by Comm. Pessina/Comm. Giuliano. Unanimously approved.

13. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 7:48 p.m. No one wished to speak.

14. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION

Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public session at 7:48 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Submitted by,
Alyse McEwen

APPROVED 9/8/2025

Alyse McEwen
Recording Secretary

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