

**SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT
445 Randolph Road | Middletown, CT**

**Board of Fire Commissioners
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 18, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.**

Held at the firehouse and available via Zoom - Meeting ID 897 7981 1949

Present: Commissioners Kleckowski, Giuliano, Penney, Thazhampallath (arrived at 6:57 p.m.), and Pessina;
Deputy Chief Jacobs

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Kleckowski called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. PUBLIC SESSION

Chairwoman Kleckowski opened the public session at 6:33 p.m. There were no members of the public present.

4. CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION

Chairwoman Kleckowski closed the public hearing at 6:33 p.m.

MOTION to recess the meeting pending the arrival of Commissioner Thazhampallath by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Pessina. Unanimously approved. The meeting recessed at 6:35 p.m.

Chairwoman Kleckowski called the meeting back to order at 6:41 p.m.

5. BUDGET REVIEW

\$521,885 has been added to "Income," representing the funds the district will receive from the State Motor Vehicle Fire District Grant. There were no changes to the expenditure lines.

6. ADOPT BUDGET/SET MILL RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

MOTION to adopt the budget as published in the draft as of May 12, 2022 and set the mill rate at 5.555 mills by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Pessina.

Commissioner Thazhampallath arrived at 6:57 p.m.

Commissioner read into the record a statement. The statement is attached to these minutes.

MOTION to amend the motion to offer opportunities for cost reduction to the budget. Commissioner Giuliano called *point of order* stating a suggestion to reduce the mill rate would also have to include a suggested reduction in expenditures so the numbers would match. Commissioner Penney withdrew his motion. Commissioner Giuliano called the question, seconded by Commissioner Pessina. Voting was as follows:

Commissioner Kleckowski Aye
Commissioner Giuliano Aye
Commissioner Thazhampallath Aye
Commissioner Pessina Aye
Commissioner Penney Nay

The motion passed with four Ayes and one Nay.

Voting for the motion to adopt the budget as published in the draft as of May 12, 2022 and set the mill rate at 5.555 mills was as follows:

Commissioner Kleckowski Aye
Commissioner Giuliano Aye
Commissioner Thazhampallath Aye
Commissioner Pessina Aye
Commissioner Penney Nay

The motion passed with four Ayes and one Nay.

7. SET DATE AND HOURS FOR BUDGET REFERENDUM

MOTION to set the date for the budget referendum for June 14, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. by Comm. Pessina/Comm. Giuliano

MOTION to amend the motion to change the hours from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. by Comm. Penney. The motion to amend was accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion.

The motion to set the date for the budget referendum for Tuesday, June 14, 2022 from 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. was unanimously approved.

8. APPROVAL OF REFERENDUM REMINER POSTCARDS

MOTION to approve the postcard after adding the correct numbers by Comm. Giuliano/Comm. Pessina.

After debate regarding the mailing list for the postcards, Commissioner Pessina called the question. Commissioner Penney seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

The motion to approve the postcard after adding the correct numbers (a copy of the postcard is attached to the minutes) was unanimously approved.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Submitted by,

Alyse McEwen
Recording Secretary

APPROVED 6/13/22

The recording of the meeting is available upon request, according to Connecticut Freedom of Information requirements.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT

MAY 18,2022

Commissioners, the following is being read into the record this evening:

The time has come to give our taxpayers of the district, including homeowners, businesses and renters a tax break.

These are very difficult times for all as our taxpayers are struggling to make ends meet.

We have a great fire district, the best staff and equipment as well the much-improved station quarters.

The record of recent years indicates significant fiscal surpluses. This is very concerning as it lends itself to unnecessary overtaxing.

As fiscal stewards of the district we shouldn't be bringing forward a budget that again ignores spending that could be reasonably reduced.

There are multiple spending/business practices or Opportunities For Improvement, what I refer to as OFE's which should be implemented.

The voters sent a clear message when the first proposed budget failed. It's our duty to make this next proposed budget flat or reduced.

I cannot, in good conscious, vote to support anything else.

Respectfully,

Commissioner Penney