

# Town of Suffield



## Board of Fire Commissioners Minutes

Minutes of the Fire Commission Meeting  
April 12, 2016

Commission chair, Jeremiah Mahoney, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the main firehouse. Present: P. Christian, J. Mahoney, J Caron, R. Gemme, E. O'Hurley, Chief Flynn, Fire Marshal M. Thibedeau, and observers.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chair stated that the Town Clerk has received an email from Commissioner Trowbridge indicating his intent to step down from the Fire Commission due to a change in job status making it difficult for him to attend meetings.

### Secretary's Report

Mahoney moved, Christian seconded to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2016 Commission meeting as amended to add the following to the first bulleted item under the Chair's Report:

**The Chief explained that consideration had been given to having dispatch, police or other EMS check in periodically when staffed with a duty crew of one, but that measure was not adopted because it would disrupt the sleep of the firefighter on duty. Commission Gemme inquired about the use of a transmitter for the firefighter on duty and the Chief explained that would not assist a suddenly and immediately incapacitated firefighter.**

The motion passed unanimously.

### Financial Report

The Commission reviewed the current year to date financial information. Christian moved, O'Hurley seconded to approve the financial report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### Calls and Activities

The Commission reviewed the report for March.

### Correspondence

- The Chief read a letter of resignation from Recording Secretary, Allyson Kehoe, effective the end of June 2016.
- The Commissioners were given a copy of a letter from the Suffield Firemen's Association showing support for hiring additional career staff. The letter was signed by Association President, Thomas McCabe. Commissioner O'Hurley commented on the

status of the SAFER grant, which was voted down at the March meeting. The First Selectman has asked Chief Flynn to bring this grant forward. The Board of Finance voted to submit the grant. Chief Flynn estimates that FEMA will begin awarding the grants prior to July 1. Commissioner Caron suggested a meeting with the Firefighters Executive Board in May.

**Public Comment**

Tom McCabe, 48 Lebria Rd., President of the Suffield Firemen’s Association, stated that the members welcome the opportunity to work with the Commission in respect to hiring additional staff and assisting in any way to move this forward.

**Old Business**

None

**Chief’s Report**

- All vehicles are up to speed with the exception of the Tower, which showed some deficiencies in the ladder testing and will need approximately \$55,000 worth of repairs. Discussion on replacing this vehicle – whether bonding or lease/purchase.
- Station 2 sprinkler system work is in progress.
- Station 3 bricks to repair building have arrived.

**Fire Marshal’s Report**

None

**New Business**

The “Meet Your Suffield Fire Department Presentation” was tabled until a future meeting due to technical difficulties.

**Executive Session**

Mahoney moved, Gemme seconded to enter Executive Session at 7:42 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

A personnel issue was discussed.

O’Hurley moved, Christian seconded to return to regular session at 7:44 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Gemme moved, O’Hurley seconded to adjourn the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Christian  
Secretary