

**The Board of Fire Commissioners  
Portsmouth Fire Department**

① 58

Fire Station 2

George Pierce Training Room

July 8, 2025

Portsmouth, NH

1800 hours

**I. Call to Order:**

Chairman Gamester called the meeting to order at 1800 hours.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance with Attendance:**

Commissioner Gamester led the pledge of allegiance.

Present were Commissioners: Richard Gamester and Michael Hughes; Fire Chief William McQuillen, Assistant Fire Chief Jason Gonet, Deputy Fire Chief Patrick Howe, Administrative Manager Nancy Savini, Lt. Gordon and Firefighters Sweeney, Gray, Lamonica & Gregori.

**III. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

*Motion, to approve the minutes of June 17, 2025, was made by Commissioner Hughes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Matthes and passed unanimously.*

**IV. Public Comment Session:** None.

**V. Presentation of Written Communications:** None.

**VI. Reports:**

**A. Fire Chief's Reports:**

*Commissioner Gamester motioned to discuss Chief's reports 25-052 through 25-055. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes.*

Fire Chief McQuillen reviewed reports with the Commission.

Report (052), 2025 Response Report for June 2025. The report shows the department responding to a total of 521 calls for the month: 203 Fire Calls with EMS Services and 116 Fire and Related Service Calls and 318 Ambulance Calls. Chief spoke briefly about some of the activities for the month, noting basement fire at 218 Thaxter Road, city school bus accident which triggered the Fire Department and School Department to use the school bus protocol and MVA involving a motorcycle vs. a turning car.

The safety message focused on Motorcycle Safety. The Portsmouth Fire Department and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation reminds you to be visible, dress for safety and apply effective mental strategies.

Report (053), Fire and EMS Call Summary Reports, shows the department responded to 203 fire calls for the month of June. EMS activity was 318 with the top three responses being for no apparent illness or injury, fainting, and weakness. There were 13 calls for abdominal pain, 10 for sepsis, 9 for alcohol abuse and 48 non-transports. Report (054), FY25 Budget, Chief reviewed the budget noting we are still tracking about 1% to the good and have projected

expenses to fiscal year end. Report (055), Overtime Analysis, provided a breakdown of how overtime was used in the month of June along with a summary of what was charged to OT-Recall for the month. Noting Keene Fire Department shift coverage and Market Square Day coverage.

*Motion, to accept Chief's Reports 25-052 through 25-055, was made by Commissioner Matthes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes and passed unanimously.*

**B. Staff Reports:**

Assistant Chief Gionet reported on facilities and operations happening within the department (056) in the month of June: Engine 1 had rear springs repaired along with rear brake work and Ambulance 3 had new brakes installed as well as additional brake work. Currently in the process of updating some of the rope rescue and technical rescue equipment. Two candidates currently going through background checks and physicals to fill 1 current vacancy and 1 anticipated vacancy in August. Conducting ongoing probationary firefighter training and pumps training for all personnel. Received the new portable ventilators.

Deputy Chief Howe reported (057) on Fire Prevention activity for the month of June with 29 permits issued, 59 inspections done and 25 prevention related meetings. Other items of note, Walkthroughs, coordinated for all shifts, through the John Paul Jones House. FPO Wheeler taught CPR/Stop the Bleed for 6 senior staff members at Prescott Park. FPO Putney attended NFPA 1 Draft Committee meeting. FPO Wheeler taught fire safety for 10 senior staff members of the Portsmouth Historical Society. Plan reviewed for several large ongoing projects. They include 105 Bartlett (151 residential units with below grade parking and related amenities), 581 Lafayette Road (72 residential units with parking below and related amenities, 75 Deer Street (2 Russel Street) (56 residential units with commercial spaces and parking below), Portsmouth Chevy project (2 multi use buildings with retail and residential units).

**VII. Old Business: None.**

**IX. New Business:**

Lt. Gordon spoke about the Hazmat team and their immediate need for medication for the treatment of any such nerve agent contamination. The drug supplies was recently moved from Exeter Hospital to Manchester making access an hour away. To be able to purchase 30 kits to have readily available would allow for immediate treatment..

**X. Adjournment:**

*Motion, to adjourn at 1836 hours, was made by Commissioner Gamester. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes and passed unanimously.*



Jennifer Mosher-Matthes, Clerk