

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

Fire Station 2

George Pierce Training Room
August 12, 2025

Portsmouth, NH
1800 hours

Call to Order:

Chairman Gamester called the meeting to order at 1800 hours.

I. Pledge of Allegiance with Attendance:

Commissioner Gamester led the pledge of allegiance.

Present were Commissioners: Richard Gamester, Michael Hughes and Jennifer Mathes; Assistant Fire Chief Jason Gonet, Deputy Fire Chief Patrick Howe, Administrative Manager Nancy Savini, and members of the public.

II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion, to approve the minutes of July 8, 2025, was made by Commissioner Hughes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Mathes and passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment Session: None.

IV. Presentation of Written Communications: None.

V. Reports:

A. Fire Chief's Reports:

Commissioner Gamester motioned to discuss Chief's reports 25-059 through 25-062. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes.

Assistant Fire Chief Gonet reviewed reports with the Commission.

Report (059), 2025 Response Report for July 2025. The report shows the department responding to a total of 605 calls for the month: 270 Fire Calls with EMS Services and 167 Fire and Related Service Calls and 335 Ambulance Calls. Assistant Chief spoke briefly about some of the activities for the month, noting on 7/5/25 77 Hanover Street elevator rescue of three persons and two dogs, on 7/6/25 496 Greenside Avenue structure fire (garage), on 7/20/25 47 Weare Street Seabrook 2 alarm building fire and on 7/30/25 I-95 South Greenland brush fire.

The safety message focused on this September being National Preparedness Month. Portsmouth Fire Department along with FEMA and the National Safety Council list recommendations on Ready.gov.

Report (060), Fire and EMS Call Summary Reports, shows the department responded to 270 fire calls for the month of July. EMS activity was 335 with the top three responses being for no apparent illness or injury, weakness, and Injury (head/scalp). There were 13 calls for anxiety Attacks, 8 for abdominal pain, 8 for hip injury, and 51 non-transports. Report (061), FY25 Budget, Assistant Chief reviewed the budget noting that with it being the first month of the new FY26, annual expenses are recorded skewing the % expense to date

which will even out as we go through the year. (062), Overtime Analysis, provided a breakdown of how overtime was used in the month of July along with a summary of what was charged to OT-Recall for the month. Noting Fireworks Detail and Military Leave coverage.

Motion, to accept Chief's Reports 25-059 through 25-062, was made by Commissioner Hughes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Matthes and passed unanimously.

B. Staff Reports:

Assistant Chief Gionet reported on facilities and operations happening within the department (063) in the month of July: Engine 3 had electrical issues repaired and new front tires and Truck 2 had a coolant leak repaired. Station 1 had 2 leaking basement windows repaired. We have two firefighters starting August 18, 2025 and currently have two open positions with two conditional offers working through the hiring process. Conducting ongoing probationary firefighter training and pumps training for all personnel, as well as EMS initial training on portable ventilators for the ambulances. New IV pump training currently underway with equipment scheduled to be placed in service at months end.

Deputy Chief Howe reported (064) on Fire Prevention activity for the month of July with 24 permits issued, 46 inspections done, 24 prevention related meetings, and 20 approvals (not associated with FD permits). Other items of note, FPOs Wheeler and Putney attended the New Hampshire Fire Prevention Society's Board of Directors meeting, FPO Wheeler provided fire prevention education to PEAK summer program at Dondero School as well as at risk teens at station 2, FPO Putney brought all 4 shifts through the new apartment building at 80 Constitution Ave, FPO Wheeler attended the Fire Inspector Certification visiting committee in Concord and all July 3rd Fireworks were inspected with the display performance having no issues.

Motion, to accept Staff Reports 25-063 through 25-064, was made by Commissioner Matthes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes and passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business: None.

IX. New Business:

Firefighter Thomas Wall resignation (065).
Larry Drake Thank you (066)

X. Adjournment:

Motion, to adjourn at 1826 hours, was made by Commissioner Hughes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Matthes and passed unanimously.



Jennifer Mosher-Matthes, Clerk