



Pete Sampiere, 90 Tomlinson Road, explained that the intent is to provide flexibility in situations such as the current year, where Deputy Chief Levey stepped down and the next in line, Chief Ozcowski, is still completing training and preparing to assume the role of Chief. In such cases, rather than appointing a new three-year term when the current term expires, the Board may grant a one-year extension to allow time for succession planning and readiness.

Chris Edwards reviewed Section 6-31 (Company Bylaws), noting that Great Hill Hose Company and Citizens Engine Company currently operate under separate bylaws. He clarified that the proposed language establishes that no company bylaws may supersede the Town of Seymour’s ordinances, Charter, or the Seymour Fire Department’s Standard Operating Guidelines.

Chief also reviewed Section 6-22 (Enlistment Qualifications of Volunteers), noting that Naugatuck was removed as it is not a bordering town. He further explained that individuals residing in bordering towns remain eligible to join. Additionally, town employees who work in Seymour but reside outside of bordering towns would be permitted to join the Seymour Fire Department, subject to the Department’s rules, regulations, and training requirements, which will be formalized upon adoption of the ordinance.

He stated that once admitted, these members would be trained in the same manner as current firefighters within each company. Updated driver training and qualification standards have already been revised to align with this approach. He also noted that such members would not be required to participate in company fundraisers or attend company meetings. Chief Edwards continued his discussion.

Town Counsel, Bryan LeClerc, suggested adding language to the three year term section “appoint a replacement to serve for the portion of the term unexpired.” Chris stated that the Board of Fire Commissioners thought about that but decided against it. Chris explained the vacancy/appointment process.

Selectperson Phil Wilhelmy raised a question regarding the provision stating, “The Chief, Deputy Chief, and Assistant Chief may be removed for cause by the Board of Fire Commissioners following a full and fair hearing,” and suggested revising the word “following” to “pending.”

He also inquired about the use of take-home vehicles and who is authorized to access them.

Chris Edwards, Fire Chief, responded that the four fire chiefs are permitted use of take-home vehicles. He explained that the proposed language formalizes that these vehicles may be used during nights, weekends, and outside of the Valley, provided the officer is able to respond to an emergency call. If they are unable to respond, personal vehicles must be used. If they are able to respond, they are authorized to utilize their assigned department vehicle.

**Motion to set the Ordinance Committee Public Hearing for Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the Norma Drummer Room for the Firefighters Ordinance**

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Phil Wilhelmy

Vote: 3-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

**Sidewalks-**

