

HISTORY OF FIRE DEPARTMENT

[Legeros: This document contains two things. First, the "History of the Fire Department" which was written on typed pages, years or decades ago, by someone consulting the town minutes. However, the original person who typed those excerpts didn't always quote the minutes exactly. Thus the second part of this document, the comments in yellow. Those are additions by Legeros in 2018. He adds exact quotes, from copies of the town minutes that he obtained from the State Archives. Thus, readers can compare both to determine accuracy.]

BOOK I - Page 630 - March 2, 1896

[Legeros adds, transcribed: "A petition of certain citizens proposing to operate a Fire Company if equipped by the Town was read and laid on the table. The project was looked upon with favour but the municipal year being nearly at an end and no funds unappropriated being on hand, it was thought not necessary to agitate the matter at present."]

A petition of certain citizens proposed to operate a Fire Company if equipped by the Town was read and laid on the table. The project was looked on with favour but the municipal year was near its end with no funds, so it was thought not necessary to agitate the matter.

BOOK II - Page 76 - September 23, 1901

[Legeros adds, transcribed: "Moved that the Board authorize the finance committee to purchase for the town of Chapel Hill a hook and ladder outfit for fire protection, the same to cost not exceeding \$200.00. The finance committee is also authorized to provide a suitable place for keeping this hook and ladder outfit and the two feels & hose to supplied by the university [as] a part of the fire protection outfit for the joint use of the town and the university."]

Board authorized the Finance Committee to purchase for the town a hook & ladder outfit for fire protection - the same to cost not exceeding \$200.00. Town also authorized to provide a suitable place for housing it and the 2 reels of hose to be supplied by the University & a part of the fire protection outfit for joint use of Town & University.

May 12, 1902 - P.96

[Legeros adds, transcribed: "It was moved and seconded that John O'Daniel be elected Chief of Fire Department and also that a fire committee be appointed carried. The following committee was appointed as W. S. Roberson, A. A. Kluttz, W. W. Pickard."]

First Fire Chief: John O'Daniel elected. Also Fire Commission: W. S. Roberson, A.A. Kluttz & W. W. Pickard.

May 30, 1902 - P. 103

[Legeros adds: Board considers request to erect a wooden building in rear of brick building. They reference that "there has been established a fire limit in which no wooden buildings are to be erected except approved by the Board of Alderman." Legeros interpretation: The fire limit was created prior to this meeting.]

A fire limit established in view of the fact that no wooden buildings be erected except with approval of the Board of Aldermen.

July 14, 1902 - P.107

J. D. Webb submitted plans to Fire Committee for approval. Permit granted to Webb & Lloyd to erect a building in accordance with plans submitted.

Note: Plan sketch attached to P.107: 1 or 2 stories high, on Franklin Street. To be built of good brick & glass; tin roof; concrete floor in both stories. 30 or 40 ft high.

September 26, 1902 - P.112

Permission granted S. J. Brockwell to build a privy on his premises under the direction of the Fire Committee.

March 2, 1903 - P.119

[Legeros transcription: "It was moved and seconded that a committee be appointed to confer with J. F. Maddy concerning a settlement on fire wagon, and report back to the Board. Motion carried. W. S. Roberson and W. W. Pickard were appointed as the Committee."]

Moved & seconded that a committee be appointed to confer with J. F. Maddy concerning a settlement on fire wagon, & to report back to Board. W. S. Roberson & W. W. Pickard appointed as Committee.

April 6, 1903 - P.120

[Legeros transcription: "The following bills were allowed" [...] "J. Frank Maddy \$190.00 for hook & ladder outfit".]

J. Frank Maddy bid 190.00 for hook & ladder outfit.

BOOK II

Page 2

July 6, 1903 - P.135

[Legeros transcription: "Moved and seconded that a Chief of fire department be elected at a salary of five dollars per month. Motion carried. On motion a committee of two was appointed to find a suitable man for Chief of fire department. Mayor and Mr. McCauley was named as committee."]

Chief of Fire Dept. to be elected at a salary of \$5.00 per month; & committee of two appointed to find a suitable candidate. Mayor & Mr. McCauley named as committee.

July 16, 1903 - P. 136

[Legeros transcription: "The Special Committee to select a Chief of Fire Department made the following report, that S. W. Andrews had been seen and agreed to accept the position. D. McCauley nominated S. W. Andrews and Alderman W. W. Pickard seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations S. W. Andrews was unanimously elected Chief of Fire Department at a salary of five dollars per month."]

S. W. Andrews unanimously elected as Chief.

July 23, 1903 - P. 137

[Legeros transcription: "It was moved and seconded that the Chief of the Fire Department look out for a suitable place for the fire house and lease it for five years."]

Fire Chief authorized to look out for a suitable place for fire house & lease it for five years.

August 3, 1903 - P. 139

[Legeros: No details of the "verbal report" were recorded.]

S. W. Andrew made verbal report on location of firehouse.

December 7, 1903 - P.144

The matter of seeing after the electric lights was put in the hands of the Fire Chief.

January 15, 1904 - P.145

Fire Chief authorized to make arrangement with G. C. Pickard for housing of the town road machinery.

March 7, 1904 - P.148

[Legeros transcription: "Moved and seconded that Mr. S. W. Andrews, Chief Fire Department, be instructed to secure prices of reel and hose by the next meeting."]

Fire Chief instructed to secure prices of reel & hose by next meeting.

October 3, 1904 - P. 167

[Legeros: On December 7, 1901, Alderman S. W. Andrews also offered his resignation as Alderman.]

S. W. Andrews resigns as Fire Chief. Fire Committee elected: W. S. Roberson, S. W. Andrews & D. McCauley, and moved that Asst. Chief serve as Chief with same pay until election of Chief.

December 7, 1904 - P. 171

[Legeros transcription: "Moved and seconded that the actions of the Mayor in ordering fire hose & c. be ratified."]

Action of Mayor in ordering fire hose & reel to be ratified.

July 14, 1905 - P. 198

Moved that Town give Fire Dept. \$25.00 to pay annual dues & delegate's' expenses to the tournament. John H. Markham elected as Fire Chief, W. W. Pickard Asst. Fire Chief.

BOOK II

Page 3.

August 10, 1905 - P.201

[Legeros transcription: "By order of the board, A. A. Klutz was appointed and J. M. Markham was asked to cooperate with him to ascertain to [illegible] [illegible] for a fire alarm and also get prices on hose reels.

By order of the board, W. W. Pickard was appointed and J. M. Markham was asked to cooperate with him to consider a floor and get prices on some for the erection of a building for the town [illegible] machinery, fire apparatus, & ect."]

Markham authorized to find means for a fire alarm & ascertain hose reel prices, Also to consider place & prices for erection of a building to house apparatus.

September 4, 1905 - P. 202

[Legeros transcription: "Ordered that A. A. Klutz be authorized to offer Goldsboro Fire Co. \$75.00 for reel."]

Goldsboro Fire Co. offered \$75.00 for a reel. Upped to \$100.00 page 204.

[Legeros transcription: "On motion the sec. was authorized to offer Goldsboro Fire Co. one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for hand reel (we question) F.O.B. Chapel Hill, to be paid within thirty days."]

December 4, 1905 - P.207

Matter of purchasing hand fire extinguisher referred to Fire Chief.

April 10, 1906 - P.212

Fire Committee directed to reconsider the fire limits.

[Excerpt from "Report of C. B. Griffin, sec. & from year ending May 9, 1906." - P.223]

[Legeros note: Ledger expense entry for January 23, "Goldsboro Fire Co. No. 1", transaction "271", amount of "84.32".]

July 2, 1906 - P.227

[Legeros transcription: "On motion the fire co. was granted leave of absence to attend the fireman's convention and tournament at Asheville about July 10th. On motion the fire co. was allowed \$25.00 toward paying their expenses to Asheville and 50¢ for each of 14 members and \$1.00 for both the Chief and Assistant, as for their dues to convention, making a total of \$34.00."]

Fire Co. granted leave of absence to attend tournament & Firemens' Convention at Asheville, & \$25.00 given as expense money. Plus 50¢ for each of fourteen members & \$1.00 for both the Chief and his Assistant to pay their dues, making total of \$34.00. Date: about July 10th.

October 1, 1906 - P.233

Fire district established as follows: beginning at east end of a brick building on Franklin St. known as the McDade residence running eastward with Franklin St. 150 ft. from said street on both south & north side to an alley east of the Presbyterian church.

July 1, 1907 - P.256

Fire Co. allowed \$60.00 expense money to go to Convention & tournament at Wilmington Aug, 5th & carry with them the big reel & enough hose for its use in the contest, with the understanding that they are to take good care of it. George Roney elected Asst. Chief.

January 21, 1908 - P.261

Firemens' relief fund of 1907 created by legislature. Chapel Hill Fire Co. entitled to receive part of it. Also necessary to appoint two men and the Fire Co. [to appoint] two & State Insurance Commissioner to appoint another - the five to be known as the Trustees of the Firemens' Relief Fund. W. S. Roberson & John M. Markham appointed to represent Board.

BOOK II

Page 4.

May 11, 1908 - P.274

Authorized purchase of 150 ft. of fire hose at 68¢ per foot FOB Chapel Hill.

June 3, 1909 - P.312

Fire Dept. granted permission to attend State Assn. & tournament at Asheville during week of June 5th, & to carry enough reel & hose to contest for prizes. They allowed \$75.00 to place rubber tires on big reel, pay Assn. dues & remainder for expenses if needed.

June 24, 1909 - p.312

300 ft. of good fire hose authorized to be purchased.

August 10, 1909 - P.317

Eureka Fire House [Hose] Co. \$249.49 for fire hose. \$100.00 to be paid immediately. Note for balance to be paid in six months.

December 9, 1909 - P.322

All members of Fire Dept. exempted from paying poll tax for one year.

February 16, 1910 – P.327

License issued Fire Co. to operate a moving picture show in Town on or after May 1, 1911.

April 7, 1910 - P.328

[Legeros transcription: "On motion of W. W. Pickard, the fire co. was authorized to build a suitable house for fire hose and reels on Main St."]

Fire Co. authorized to build building on Main Street to house fire hose & reels.

July 8, 1910 - P.340

Fire Co. allowed \$175.00 for expenses to State Convention & tournament and an additional \$25.00 if it is found necessary.

November 3, 1910 - P.344

[Legeros transcription: "The resignation of W. A. Lloyd as Chief of the Fire Department and inspector [of] buildings was, upon motion of Dr. Harty [?], accepted. Upon motion of C. L. Eubanks, A. A. Pickard was elected to succeed W. A. Lloyd."]

Resignation of W. A. Lloyd as Chief of the Fire Department and Inspector [of] Buildings accepted. A. A. Pickard elected to succeed him.

BOOK II

Page 5

May 8, 1911 - P.366

[Legeros transcription: "The fire co. recommended that the Board appoint J. L. Foister Chief of their Co. and A. C. Pickard Assistant Chief. On motion of S. S. Hamdan [?], made in accordance with an old custom the co's recommendation was adopted and the above named officers were declared elected. On motion of Dr. Harty [?] the salary of the Chief of Dept was fixed at \$60.00 for year."]

Fire Co. recommended that the Board appoint J. L. Foister Chief & A. C. Pickard Asst. Chief.

July 13, 1911 - P.377

[Legeros transcription: "Fire co. was allowed \$65.00 to help pay for new reel, repairs on old reels and some other supplies.]

Fire Co. allowed \$65.00 to help pay for new reel repairs & other supplies.

August 10, 1911 - P.396

Fire Co. directed to advertise the big reel and ladder wagon for sale.

July 5, 1912 - P.426

\$100.00 to Fire Co. to tournament at Fayetteville provided [that] M. M. Cheek, Chairman of Fire Co. accompany them.

July 20, 1912 - P.428

Mr. Cheek has declined to go; therefore the \$100.00 is to be given to Fire Co. as compensation for services over past years.

August 1, 1912 - P.429

Fire Chief authorized to act to repair fire hose.

August 14, 1912 - P.431

250 ft. of fire hose bought at 90¢ per foot.

May 1, 1913 - P.443

Vote of thanks to Fire Co. for prompt response to fire alarm then Thompson house caught fire a few days ago.

June 30, 1913 - P.453

Fire Dept. given \$125.00. Treasurer directed to execute note for \$125.00 when needed by Fire Dept.

April 30, 1913 - Pg. 454

Report of Fire Dept. for year ending: Bldg. Permits granted 29 ;

Fire: 5; False Alarms: 3; Hose on hand (tested to 150 lbs.): 850; Active members in Dept.: 21.

BOOK III

Page 7

July 1 , 1915. - P.13

Fire Co. given \$125.00 toward expenses to State Convention.

Sept. 22, 1915 - P.17

Ordered that present Fire House be sold & another be built on Columbia St. near the scales.

Oct. 11, 1915 - P.18

Sec. 9 of the Bldg. & Fire Code repealed & the following words be stricken out of Sec. 8 of same: "And the same be stored away at least 50 ft. from any building used as a residence or business house".

March 14, 1916 - P.26

John L. Foister, Chief of Fire Dept.& committee empowered to purchase auto fire truck not to exceed \$600.00, on condition Fire Dept. provide \$200.00 & University to also pay \$200.00 toward it.

Apr. 12, 1916 - P.27

Fire Com. authorized to buy 500ft. of Helmet Brand, Eureka Mfg's Co.'s Fire Hose & necessary repair material for Fire Hose.

May 5, 1916 - P.28

Unlawful for any[one] but members of Fire Co. to get on fire truck when in use.

July 6, 1916 - P.37

Fire Dept. allowed \$125.00 to attend State Convention.

Feb. 1, 1917 - P.47

Salary of Fire Chief raised to \$100.00 per yr.

May 1, 1917 - P.56

REPORT OF CHIEF OF FIRE DEPT.

INVENTORY OF APPARATUS

Hose Truck	\$600.00
Ladder Truck	350.00
Nozzles	24.00
Wrenches & Spanners	8.00
Helmets,	
Coats,	
Respirators,	

BOOK III

Page 8

Bell	
Coupling Expander	20.00
Hand Reels	132.00
1,000 ft. 2 1/2" hose	900.00

	\$2,129.00

From May 1st, 1916 to May 1st, 1917 we had nine calls, six fire and three false alarms.

Total Property at Risk	\$24,450.00
Total Loss to Owners	3,210.00

Total saved to property owners	\$21,240.00

Respectfully,

Chief John L. Foister

May 28, 1917 - P. 61

Donation of \$85.00 made to the Fire Co. to partly defray expenses of a pleasure trip.

Oct. 4, 1917 - P.70

Mayor to look into question of erecting a brick house for the Fire Dept. & Guardhouse.

[Legeros transcription: "Messers Cheek & Wood were appointed by the Mayor to look into the question of erected a brick house for the Fire Dept and guardhouse."]

Dec. 7, 1917 - P.71

Fire House Comm. presented report recommending erection of building . After discussion, decided unwise to build now.

[Legeros transcription: "Firehouse committee presented report recommending the erection of building. After discussion it afforded (appeared?) unwise to build now."]

July 25, 1918 - P.80

Fire Dept. given \$90.00 toward State Convention at Wilmington in early August.

May 15, 1919 - P.96

JNO. L. Foister elected Fire Chief & J. W. Huskey Asst. Chief.

[Legeros transcription: "On recommendation of the Fire Co. and on motion of Dr. Lawson, Jno. L. Foister was elected Chief of the Fire Co. and J. W. Husky was elected Ass't Chief. Jno. L. Foister was also elected building inspector.]

May 1919 - P. 98

Fire Co. given \$150.00 toward expenses for a summer trip.

Night Police, C. C. Sugg, given salary of \$75.00 per month.

August 7, 1919 – P.108

On motion of D. S. Smith, J. M. Cheek were elected members of the Board of Trustees of Firemen's Relief fund.

BOOK III

Page 9.

Oct. 20, 1919 - P.110

Full tax refund made to Fire Co. members who had paid for 1918 and that no poll tax be collected from any member.

July 1, 1920 - P. 117

Chief of Fire Dept. and two members apptd. to go before Trustees of UNC to appeal to them for aid in the purchase of a fire engine.

Apr. 7, 1921 - P.127

IJNC requested to cooperate with town on purchase of a 600 or 750 Fire Pumper by paying one half of purchase price.

Note executed for \$1350 for sewer extension.

May 15, 1921 - P.138

Recommended that the Board purchase a 750 gal. [per minute] American LaFrance fire pumper at a price of \$12,500. Adopted and UNC to pay one half.

July 1, 1921- P.149

Fire Chief directed to call to the attention of the people of Chapel Hill the accumulation of trash and other materials on their property that are considered fire hazards and shall direct that same shall be removed and cleaned up.

Aug. 4, 1921 - P.153

"Ordered that a brick fire house be erected in the middle of Columbia St. just north of Rosemary St., to cost approximately \$4,000 . Mayor W. S . Roberson apptd. Dr. Pratt & M. W. Durham to serve with the Fire Comm. as a Bldg. Committee to let contract and supervise construction."

Aug. 9, 1921 - P.154

Contract for new Fire House with J. T. Squires for \$3,988. 18 X 40 ft. inside. Wall foundation to be 21" thick; 1st story 13" thick; 2nd story 8" thick. 1st floor to be 4" concrete, 1 part cement, 3 parts sand & 5 parts stone, etc. Stairway to be built in the usual way, with rail and bolsters. All woodwork to have two coats of good paint.

Plumbing: Shower bath of standard quality. Vitreous china toilet combination. One enameled iron sink with hose connection. Sewer to be standard cast iron from house to main.

Electric Wiring: Nine electric lights to be installed. Wiring to be conduit.

[Legeros notes: Minutes contain more detailed specs than summarized above:

NORTH CAROLINA,
ORANGE COUNTY.

This agreement made and entered into this 8th day of August, 1921, by and between Chapel Hill Fire Company, of the first part, and J. T. Squires, of the second part, for the consideration of Thirty-Nine Hundred and Eighty-Eight Dollars (\$3988.00).

The second part does agree to build one brick house 18x40 feet inside. Brick to be two and one laid in a good grade of lime and cement mortar. The mortar in first two feet of wall to be all cement, joints to be struck with trowel, and pointed at completion. The brick are to be picked for out side work as near all one color as possible.

The foundation of wall to be 21" thick, first story 13" thick, second story 8" thick, wall plate to be bolted on same, headers every six courses. There is to be a steel lintel over all openings, brick over all arches to be set on end and project 1". First floor is to be 4" concrete, one part cement, three parts sand and five parts stone, topped with 1" of topping composed of one part cement, two parts sand.

The wall of the first story to be plastered with 3" of cement plaster 3-1/2 feet high. Second floor joist to be 2"x12", 16 O. C. with diagonal storm floor, finish floor to be good #2.

All walls and ceiling on second floor to be plastered with patent plaster sand finish. Roof to have a 20" overhang hiped at ends, sheated with dressed lumber, rafters 2x6, shingles same as Bruce Strowd's residence, 4" Gal iron gutters and down spouts.

All windows to be as shown on plans, and hung on weights. All doors to be 2" thick paneled.

Stairway to be built in the usual way, with rail and bolsters.

All wood work to have two coats of good paint, brick wall and overhead of first story to have one coat of cold water paint, colors to suit the owner.

Plumbing. Shower bath of standard quality. Stall to be finished with cement floor and cement walls five feet high.

Vitreous china toilet combination.

One enameled iron sink with hose connection.

Standard "U" floor trap and strainer.

Contractor to make connection with water and sewer lines. The sewer to be standard cast iron from house to main.

Electric Wiring. Nine electric lights are to be installed, and are to be located as directed by the committee. The wiring is to be conduit and to meet all requirements of the fire district.

Flues. One flue is to be built in the wall leading from the first floor, and two flues built in the wall leading from the second floor, all to be located by the committee.

All work to be done in a thorough and workman-like manner, and work to commence immediately upon the signing of this contract.

The above proposal for the building of a fire house is accepted, and the contractor is authorized to begin the construction at once.

This 8th day of August, 1921.

THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL
By _____

Aug. 9. 1921 - P.157

Fire Co. given \$100 for expenses to the State Convention.

[Legeros transcription: "A motion was made and passed that the fire company be given \$100.00 for expenses to the State Convention."]

Sept. 23, 1921- P.158

Contract signed with United States Rubber Co. for 1 ,000 ft. of Paragon Fire Hose at \$1.30, payable in one and two years with 6% interest.

BOOK III

Page 10

Sept. 29, 1921 - P.160

Note executed to The Peoples Bank for \$2,000. for payment on Fire House and current expenses.

Oct. 6, 1921 - P. 161

\$75.00 appropriated to pay Chief Foister's expenses to the Fire Chiefs' Convention in Atlanta. Committee apptd. to examine new fire machine and report to Board.

Oct. 15, 1921 - P.163

Special Fire Comm. recommend new fire machine be accepted.

Oct. 27, 1921 - P. 166

Contract with Mr. Gurley to be closed for installation of a heating system for the Fire House.

[Legeros transcription: "On motion of R. P. Andrews, J. M. Cheek and G. C. Pickard were authorized to close contract with Mr. Gurley for the installation of a heating system for the fire house."]

Feb. 3, 1922, P.193

J. P. Foister to be allowed use of old Fire House for \$4.00 per month, on condition he vacate whenever requested and that he continue as weighmaster.

[Legeros transcription: "On motion of R. P. Andrews it was ordered that J. P. Foister be allowed to use the old fire house fore \$4.00 per month on condition that he continue as weighmaster and that he agree to vacate at any time the Board should so order.]