

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting

Classroom at Fire Headquarters

72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Call to Order: Chief LaVecchia called the meeting to order at 1905 hours. A quorum was present.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners Thomas Riso, John Healy, Karen Craig, Richard Smith, Kevin McGrath, Howard Stein, and William A. Brennan. Also present were Chief Louis A. LaVecchia, Assistant Chief Robert J. Healey, Assistant Chief Al Zingaro, and Union President Michael Dunn.

2. Election of Officers

Commissioners Smith and Stein nominated and seconded Commissioner Riso for Chairman, Commissioner Healy for Vice-Chairman, and Commissioner Craig for Secretary. Election carried unanimously.

Commissioner Smith welcomed Commissioner McGrath to the Board.
Chief LaVecchia turned the meeting over to Chairman Riso

3. Public Statements limited to the function of the Board of Fire Commissioners:

Union President Dunn read a letter into the record from the Union to the Commissioners, saying the Union would like to know the status of the chief survey that was completed by the Union Members three months ago, but has not been on the agenda or discussed at any meetings. The Union asked the Commissioners to respond in writing by January 31st.

4. Swearing In:

None.

5. Consideration of Minutes:

Regular Meeting - December 20, 2011

Commissioners Craig and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the December 20, 2011, regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Communications:

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- a. Letter from the Milford Co-Operative Preschool Learning Center, thanking the Department for their support during the fall children's fair on the green; signed the students, parents, and teachers of the Milford Co-Operative Preschool Learning Center.
- b. Thank-you letter to the Department from Jeremy Pleso, thanking the Department for sending cookies to the troops in Afghanistan.
- c. Thank-you letter from the service members at RCC Camp Stone, Afghanistan, thanking the Department for sending cookies to them.
- d. Letter to the Board from Battalion Chief Healey. He states he completed the Trade Center Memorial at Station 7, using \$700 from the Operating Budget. He requests the Board make a donation of \$300 from the Good & Welfare Fund to complete the project.

Commissioners Brennan and Smith made and seconded a motion to authorize Battalion Chief Healey to use \$300 from the Good & Welfare Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Committee Reports

Apparatus

Assistant Chief Zingaro reported that the entire front line is in service. Chief LaVecchia added that the new Quint has been ordered and is expected to be delivered in April or May.

East Side Fire Station Building Committee

Commissioner Healy reported the project is moving ahead and will take a few more months to complete. He said the roof trusses are completed, the wall sheathing is going up, and all the concrete is poured, including the slabs for the fuel storage tank and the generator. He added that the mason is mobilized and is starting on the west end of the building. He summed up by saying the Committee is happy with the current progression of the project, and they would be having a meeting on Wednesday. He opened the floor to questions.

8. Chief's Reports

Chief LaVecchia informed the Commissioners he had submitted his report and it was included in their packets. He explained to the Commissioners that the flood warning gauges had been giving false readings. The Chief stated he is looking into the cost to get them recalibrated. He commented when the gauges were first installed, they were very accurate and now the opposite seems to be true. He said he would keep the Commissioners informed of this issue.

The Chief opened the floor to questions regarding his report.

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9. Unfinished Business:

Special Leave

Assistant Chief Healey reported the original company the Department was using to implement the system had not worked out. He said a second company is slated to start working on this issue this week. He said there is a 30-day trial period, but the program seems to do what the Department wants it to do.

2012-2013 Budget

Chief LaVecchia reported that the Mayor is holding the line on all the department heads. He said the Department made cuts to their budget and presented it to the Mayor. The Chief added that the Mayor will be presenting the budgets to the Board of Finance soon.

L.R. Kimball Report

Chief LaVecchia informed the Commissioners he submitted his answer report to the Mayor, but hasn't discussed the issue with him as of yet. Commissioner Smith inquired if a copy of the Chief's answer had been submitted to the Kimball company; the Chief said it hadn't. Chairman Riso commented that after reading the Kimball report and the Chief's response, he noticed more than a few inaccuracies in the Kimball report, and it was not worth the \$10,000 that was paid for it. The Chairman added that the same company would be presenting their statewide report soon, and he commented that he hoped they do better on that. Commissioner Healy said the Chief's answer report is very good.

10. Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:

Commissioners Brennan and Smith made and seconded a motion to amend the agenda to add executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board entered executive session at 1920 hours.

Commissioners Smith and Healy made and seconded a motion to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session at 1948 hours.

11. Adjournment

Commissioners Smith and Healy made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 1949 hours. Motion carried unanimously.