

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting  
Commissioners Conference Room at Fire Headquarters  
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT  
Tuesday, February 18, 2014**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Riso called the meeting to order at 1902 hours. A quorum was present.

**1. Roll Call**

Commissioners Thomas Riso, Richard Smith, Howard Stein, Aaron Sanner, and William A. Brennan. Also present were Chief Douglas Edo, Assistant Chief Gary Baker, and Union President Michael Dunn.

Commissioners McGrath and Weber were excused.

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

Union President Dunn updated the Commissioners on the progress of the Sandy Hook Playground project. The playground will be built at the Milford Academy site.

Connecticut Tank will be pouring the 60 yards of concrete slabs needed in the next month. The playground build will begin on March 13<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>. The ribbon-cutting will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, which is the birthday of the child in whose honor the playground is being built, James Mattioli.

Union President Dunn explained a 5K race honoring James Mattioli will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> as well. The race will begin and end at Fowler Field. Union President Dunn passed around a flier advertising the 5K to the Commissioners. He invited anyone to join in the race or to help on the sidelines.

Union President Dunn informed the Commissioners that IFF Local 944 has made James Mattioli an honorary firefighter. A badge and shield on a plaque will be presented to the family of James Mattioli at the ribbon-cutting.

Union President Dunn added stickers have been made up to put on the trucks; the Department is also selling the stickers for \$5 apiece. He noted to-date the Department has raised close to \$30,000. There will be an additional fundraising event held at The Tilted Kilt in Milford on February 25<sup>th</sup> where 50 percent of the proceeds obtained at both locations.

Union President Dunn said Newtown Ambulance has been invited to help with the playground build. He noted there will in all likelihood be many volunteers at the build. He said the Department members will allow family members of James Mattioli and the New Jersey Firefighters space to build the playground first before they jump in and help. Union President Dunn informed the Commissioners that the New Jersey Firefighters will be marching in the Milford St. Patrick's Day Parade with the Milford Firefighters.

Union President Dunn said there will be a wine and beer tasting fundraiser at the Trumbull Marriot on February 20<sup>th</sup> benefitting Connecticut Burn Care.

Union President Dunn complimented Battalion Chief of Planning Ron Wetmore on his hard work on all the fundraising; he said the goal is to fund the playground 100 percent.

Commissioner Smith asked for some fliers about the 5K race to be posted at the 7 Seas. Chairman Riso noted that was quite a report from Union President Dunn, and inquired of the total amount needed to fund the playground 100 percent. Union President Dunn said they run about \$50,000 to \$60,000.

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Union President Dunn added the Department will be treating the Mattioli family to lunch after the ribbon cutting. He explained there will be roving medics on bicycles for the 5K race.

Union President Dunn informed the Commissioners that a retired Assistant Chief of the Department recently passed away. The Department will be giving him full honors at his funeral and wake. The gentleman was in the US Navy. Chairman Riso commented that the obituary was very nice. Chief Edo noted the Firefighters will be in full dress uniform.

**3. Consideration of Minutes:**  
**Regular Meeting – January 23, 2014**

*Commissioners Smith and Stein made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the January 23, 2014, Regular Meeting, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

**4. Communications:**

a. Letter from Brenda Zandry to the Department asking to accept the enclosed check in memory of Mildred Burlington who died on January 31, 2014.

*Commissioners Smith and Stein made and seconded a motion to accept the check and deposit it into the Good & Welfare Fund. Motion carried unanimously.*

**5. Committee Reports**

East Side Fire Station

Commissioner Brennan reported the Department is operating out of the station presently. There are two issues remaining, the overhead doors and the heating system. Both issues are being worked on. Both items are on warranty. Mediation is ongoing. Commissioner Sanner inquired if the station is still utilizing the electric heaters; Commissioner Brennan said they are not. Chairman Riso said this item will stay on the agenda until further notice from Commissioner Brennan.

**6. Chief's Report**

Chief Edo reported the Inspector's test will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup> and there are two candidates taking the exam.

The funds for the new Quint have been approved and is now out to bid, which closes on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Chief said three bids have been received for the alerting system. Each company who has submitted a bid will do a short presentation for the Department.

The budget has been presented to the Board of Finance. There are no recommended changes to the budget by the Board of Finance.

Chairman Riso inquired how things are running in the new dispatch center. Chief Edo said the center is running smoothly. Assistant Chief Baker noted there are two remaining issues with the new dispatch system to be worked out, and then the system will be working as promised upon implementation.

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Assistant Chief Baker reported to the Commissioners the new ordinance requiring any building over 10,000 square feet that does not have radio coverage has to be installed at the owner's cost has been approved by the Board of Aldermen. Chairman Riso commented on the good news.

Chairman Riso addressed an article he read recently about police carrying a medication that could counter heroin overdoses within a period of minutes. Commissioner Stein said there have been various mediations in the past that have the same result. He asked if the police are administering said medication. Chairman Riso said he was referring to cities around the nation.

**7. New Business**

**Awards (subcommittee)**

Chairman Riso reported he spoke with Commissioner McGrath, who has agreed to run the program again this year as he did such a great job with the Swearing-In ceremony last year; Chairman Riso has asked Commissioner McGrath to be the Master of Ceremonies, and he has accepted. Commissioner Weber has also accepted working on the subcommittee.

Chief Edo inquired if the Union has a committee interested in working on the awards ceremony. Union President Dunn said he will have some members lined up.

Commissioner Stein said during his involvement last year, there were three Commissioners and one member of the Department working through the various nominations for the various awards; he said it's best to have the Union input on that as well.

Commissioner Sanner accepted working on the subcommittee as well.

Commissioner Smith inquired if the citizen awards would be held at the same time as the Firefighter awards. Chief Edo said they will be held at the same ceremony.

Commissioner Smith said there was concern at the last ceremony that combining the two types of awards would take away from the Firefighters.

Commissioner Stein said the concern was to facilitate all award recipients and their respective families. He said the thought was holding a civilian-award night and a firefighter-award night so that all may be properly honored. He commented that holding the civilian awards and the Firefighter awards on the same night might be a distraction from the Firefighters.

Chief Edo noted Commissioner McGrath mentioned previously holding the Commissioners' meeting at City Hall and have a swearing-in ceremony either immediately following the meeting or before the meeting begins. He said the Department is prepared to swear in the new members of the Department next month.

Commissioner Stein agreed this would be a good idea; Chairman Riso said it will be looked into for the April Commissioners' meeting.

**8. Unfinished Business:**

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None.

**9. Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:**

Chairman Riso complimented Commissioner McGrath for being named the Grand Marshal of the Milford St. Patrick's Day Parade, which would make him the second member of the Board to have the honor.

**10. Adjournment**

Commissioners Smith and Stein made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 1934 hours.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by C. Birney