

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting  
Commissioner's Conference Room  
At Fire Headquarters  
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT  
Tuesday, February 26, 2019**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:12 hours. A quorum was present.

**Roll Call:** In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Smith, Stein, Brennan, Weber, and Stanford were present. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo and Assistant Chiefs Gary Baker, and Bernie Begley. Also, in attendance were Asst. City Attorney Debra Kelly and Chief of Staff, Justin Rosen. Commissioner Riso was out of town.

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

None.

3. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – January 15, 2019.

*Commissioners Stanford and Brennan made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the January 15, 2019, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

4. **Communications:**

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

- i. Thank you note from Margaret Miller to the firefighters and staff who responded to her home on January 13, 2019 on an emergency call and a special thanks to the paramedic for keeping her calm.
- ii. Thank you note from Karen Johnson to the firemen who responded to her home on January 24, 2019 and for the kindness that they showed to her.
- iii. Thank you letter to, Fire Chief Fabrizi from Ingrid E. Newkirk, President of PETA, thanking the department for coming to the aid of a dog and his guardian who had fallen on thin ice at Eisenhower Park on 2/12/2019. Both were rescued in a situation which could have proved fatal.
- iv. Thank you letter from Donna D. de Recinos to the members of the Emergency Services and Fire Departments for services rendered on two occasions in the Fall of 2018.
- v. Thank you letter from Fire Chief Robert McGrath of the Stratford Fire Department for the department's aid on January 13, 2019 at the fire at Shakespeare Theater.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman asked if all Commissioners had a copy of the updated Agenda and then introduced Justin Rosen, Chief of Staff, to the Commission. The Chairman asked each Commissioner to introduce themselves and welcome Mr. Rosen.

6. **Committees Reports:**

a) Personnel Committee: Commissioner Stein had nothing to report.  
b) Maintenance & Equipment Committee: Commissioner Brennan had nothing to report.

7. **Chief's Report:**

Budget – The Chief reported that the department submitted it's 2019–2020 budget with a 5% increase over the previous year as previously discussed. The mayor has examined the proposed budget and indicated that a 2% increase would be in order. The Chief indicated that they are still in discussions and he is hoping that the final agreement will be in the 3% to 5% range as many of these increases are contractual increases. No date for the Board of Aldermen yet.

Bond Packet – The Chief reported that the items identified by the department to be included the City's Bond Packet were not included. The Mayor indicated to the Chief that some of the items requested by the department would be handled or covered by other provisions within the budget.

New Recruits – The Chief reported that 2 new recruits are currently in the academy right now. He indicated that he did not, as of yet, have a status report on their progress.

Apparatus – The department still has 2 medic trucks out of service and waiting on insurance estimates. It was likely that one was going to have to go back to the factory in Ohio to be repaired and recertified.

8. **New Business:**

a) Good & Welfare (Fire Department Donations) - The Chairman asked if the Commissioner had a copy of the Resolution passed by the Board of Aldermen dated November 16, 2005 wherein the Board authorized the establishment of an account for donations to the Fire Department not earmarked for purchase of equipment? This account subsequently became known as the Fire Department Good and Welfare Account. There is currently \$5,632.35 in the account. The department is seeking to purchase wellness equipment for department personnel use. This would require a resolution from this board expanding the use of this account to include these types of "wellness" acquisitions.

Commissioners Smith and Stanford made and seconded a motion to authorize the Department to purchase equipment for "Wellness" purposes to be made from the department "Good and Welfare" account. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

- a) Executive session: LaVecchia vs. City of Milford/Board of Fire Commissioners – discussion re: pending litigation.

*Commissioners Smith and Brennan made and seconded a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the above-referenced pending litigation. Motion carried unanimously.*

The Board goes into executive session at 7:30 pm. The Chairman requests that Asst. City Attorney Debra Kelly and the 3 Department Chiefs remain in attendance for the purpose of providing opinion or testimony.

The 3 Chiefs and Asst. City Attorney Debra Kelly exit Executive Session at 7:50 pm.

Asst. City Attorney Debra Kelly is reinvited into Executive Session at 8:04 pm.

Asst. City Attorney Debra Kelly leaves Executive Session at 8:08 pm.

*Commissioners Smith and Weber made and seconded a motion to come out of executive session for the purpose of discussing the above-referenced pending litigation. Motion carried unanimously.*

The Board comes out of Executive Session at 8:17 pm.

*Commissioners Brennan and Smith made and seconded a motion to authorize Asst. City Attorney Debra Kelly to enter into settlement discussions pertaining to litigation entitled Matthew LaVecchia v. City of Milford and to settle said litigation subject to receiving the appropriate approvals from the Milford Board of Aldermen and the City's Pension Board as needed. Motion carried unanimously.*

10. **New Equipment:**

None.

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

Commissioner Stanford discussed recent telephone calls that she has received soliciting money on behalf of the fire and police departments. She noted that these calls are targeted during the day and that it might be helpful if there was something out there in the City to let elderly people know that these calls are scams.

12. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Weber made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:21 hours.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein