

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting  
Commissioners' Conference Room  
at Fire Headquarters  
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT  
Tuesday, February 28, 2017**

1. **Call to Order**: Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:15 hours.  
A quorum was present.

**Roll Call**: Commissioners Brennan, Smith, Stein, Riso, Weber and Stanford were present. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo and Assistant Chief Gary Baker.

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

None.

3. **Consideration of Minutes**:

Regular Meeting – January 17, 2017

*Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the January 17, 2017, Regular Meeting as presented.*

4. **Communications**:

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

- i) Mayor Ben Blake received a letter together with a Certificate from the State of Connecticut, Department of Health, congratulating the City of Milford for having met the renewal requirements of a designated HEARTSafe community. This is a three year re-designation in recognition of community efforts to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest.
- ii) Captain Gregory Carmen received a thank you letter from the Milford Amateur Radio Repeater Association for allowing their group to use a classroom at fire station 5.
- iii) The Milford Fire Department received a thank you note, a \$25 donation, and a gift of a tree planted in their honor in one of our National Forests from Deborah DeCarvalho. This gift was in appreciation for assisting her as well as the department's devotion and commitment in keeping the residents of Milford safe.
- iv) The Milford Fire Department received a thank you note from Rocco Fraioli with regard to his retirement and making it a special day for him.

Commissioners Stein and Riso made and seconded a motion to accept the aforementioned donation and deposit it into the good and welfare fund. Motion carried unanimously

5. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath on behalf of himself, the Commission, the three Chiefs and the fire department expressed condolences to the family of Commissioner Riso. Commissioner Riso thanked the Commission and department for their support and sympathy.

Chairman McGrath met with the three Chiefs and Commissioner Brennan at the Seemans Lane property and wanted to commend the department for cleaning up the property. He further stated that it is great facility for the fire department where they are presently using it for storage for items, i.e., jet skis, boat, trailers, etc. He is speaking to the Mayor now about other potential usages of the property.

6. **Committees Reports:**

- a) Personnel Committee: Commissioner Stein reported that he and Chairman McGrath, met with the three Chiefs and the consultants who had previously revised the physical ability test connected to the entry level firefighters testing process. It was the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting the committee has had with the consultants since the last entry level firefighters tests were given last year. The committee and consultants were interested in evaluating the revised physical ability test that was given and for the committee and the consultants to identify and discuss any potential questions and/or concerns that came out of the process in an attempt to make adjustments, if recommended, before any future testing process begin. Commissioner Stein noted that only 1 candidate remains on the list that was certified from the last testing process and it is likely that a new testing process for entry level firefighter positions will need something after the beginning of the new fiscal year in July. Commissioner Stein noted that the committee and consultants discussed the test as administered in its entirety and there was a exchange of questions and recommendations that the consultants and the committee will consider. The committee intends to meet again in the next few month.
- b) Maintenance & Equipment Committee: Commissioner Brennan noted that it's been difficult to get the committee together due to scheduling difficulties but he was hopeful of getting the committee together sometime in the near future at the departments mechanic shop. Other than that there was nothing further to report.

7. **Chief's Report:**

- a) Budget - Chief Edo reported that the budget process is underway. He has submitted the relatively flat budget requested by the Mayor. He did add additional requests to the Wage and OT account and to some other accounts where there is a desperate need for equipment updates. Overall the departments'

request is about  $\frac{3}{4}\%$  greater than last year's budget. The Chief noted that the City does not allow the department to submit an increased wage and OT budget request. The City "calculates" the departments needs and places that number in the budget. The Chief noted that in as the department moves towards the end of the current fiscal year, it is going to be "very close" in some of our accounts particularly pertaining to wages and overtime. The Chief informed the board that the City is increasing the SCUBA budget by \$5,000. He indicated that this account has been under cut for years and the departments equipment needs to be evaluated, repaired or replaced.

- b) Medic Unit - Chief Edo reported that the new ambulance is now in service. He noted that both of the newer medic units are now housed in Station 1. The tower has been relocated to station 7. Engine 1 is now located in the towers old bay at station 1. This relocation of apparatus will serve multiple purposes. First, it's been determined that the best overall response time on average to the entire city is from the central station. Have both medics central should increase overall response times. The medic units will be alternating calls to allow appropriate crew relief and equipment restocking. Tower 1 relocation to Station 7 will now facilitate department compliance with various OSHA and NFPA provisions pertaining to available manpower at fire scenes. Commissioner Smith asked about the older medic units. The Chief noted that Medics 3 and 4 were currently at the repair shop where they will be serviced and stored. The Chief noted that they will be available for duty if necessary. Chief Baker interjected that only 2 medics will be in service at this time and not 3 as was recently occurring due to fiscal constraints. Finally the Chairman and Chief noted that there are no new medic trucks or engines anticipated in the immediate future. This addition will bring our capacity to 4 ambulances. The department currently has 3 front line units and a well-used spare. The Chief intends to request another unit in the next bonding package. The manufacturing time together with the increased usage of these ambulances requires the department to stay on top of these vehicles.
- c) New Recruits - The department has the 4 new recruits currently in the fire academy. They are off to a great start. All 4 are once again platoon leaders. Chief noted that the academy instructors continue to comment on the quality of the recruits that MFD consistently sends to the academy. The Chief believes that the 2 week in-house training for recently hired recruits is a big help to them as they enter the academy.
- d) New Engine - The Chief reported that the new Engine has completed its factory manufacturing process and should be enroute from Louisiana to the manufacturers facility in Massachusetts. Final punch list items, lettering and inspections will occur there. Should be in Milford and in-service by the first week of April.
- e) Marine 1 - The Chief noted that Marine 1 is still in storage but is 100% ready to go. It will go into the water weather permitting in the next few weeks. Asst. Chief Baker noted that in addition to the complete rebuild that has occurred,

additional work such as anti-skid decking and the addition of a deck crane for retrieval of heavy items from the water are among other new equipment that has been added to the boat. Commissioner Smith asked about the small boat and Asst. Chief Baker reported that the small zodiac boat is and has been trailered all winter. It is capable of being launched and in fact has been used several time a month over the course of the winter.

8. **New Business:**

None.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

10. **New Equipment:**

None.

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

Commissioner Brennan noted that the new report from dispatch communications does not contain a section on overall monthly response for each unit. He noted that the report use to contain this statistical information and he thought it was very useful. He is requesting that it be reported in future reports. He also comment that Medic 1 radioed that they had a mechanic problem at Milford Hospital recently and seeing as he was in the area, he went to assist but found that the crew had taken care of the problem.

Commissioner Stanford commented that she was disturbed by the announced loss of 11 million dollars in state support to the city. She expressed hope that the State Legislature will override the Governor's actions. She expressed her opinion that the state is in its current financial difficulties because the Governors of the state have never funded the pension fund. She further opined that she believes that the "current Governor is getting his ideas from other Governors from around the country." She further commented that teachers contribute 6% of their salaries towards their pensions and that she does not believe that the State Legislature is "going to go for it." Chairman McGrath commented that the loss of state funds to the city is 17 million. Finally, Commissioner Stanford indicated that she was "proud of the firefighters who saved the life of the man who went into the water to help rescue the children who fell through the ice."

Commissioner Stein asked the Chairman whether the awards subcommittee should meet to discuss this and any other matters that require recognition? Chairman McGrath indicated that he would add this to New Business in a future meeting.

Commissioner Weber asked the Chief about expected retirements. The Chief noted that 1 Captain has announced his intention to retire in September and 1 firefighter is currently in the application process for the FDNY. So the Chief believes they may have 2 opening by the end of the summer.

12. **Adjournment:**

*Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:44 hours.  
Motion carried unanimously.*

Prepared by Recording Secretary Diane Stein