

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting Commissioners' Conference Room
at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, March 17, 2015**

1. **Call to Order**: Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:00 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: Commissioners Stein, Brennan, Sanner and Weber 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 – February 24, 2015

Commissioners Stein and Brennan made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the February 24, 2015, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications**:

Commissioner Sanner reported that the Department received the following communications:

a. Thank you letter from Jean McBride to the Milford Fire Dept., Fire Marshal's office for her new alarms. Enclosed was a donation of \$25.

Commissioners Stein and Sanner made and seconded a motion to deposit the aforementioned donation to the Good and Welfare Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Thank you letter to Chief Edo from Toni Dolan, Executive Director of the Beth-El Center, Inc., for the Fire Department's generous donation of 8 cases of Tyson Chicken Nuggets. Toni Dolan expressed that the food enabled the Center to provide special meals to the City's homeless community.

c. A check in the amount of \$200 from Local 1426 of the Town of Fairfield Fire Department thanking the department for the canteen trucks response to their town during a recent fire.

Commissioners Stein and Brennan made and seconded a motion to deposit the aforementioned donation to the Canteen Truck Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Email to Chief Edo from Asst. Chief Timothy Brennan of the Stratford Fire Department for sending the canteen truck to their fire at Denton Place on February 14th. The temperature was below zero. The canteen provided hot beverages and breakfast sandwiches to all personnel on the scene which helped in their efforts to battle the fire. Asst. Chief Brennan stated that their Union will be sending a donation to help fund this valuable resource as a small token of their gratitude.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

City of Milford Safety Committee - Chairman McGrath indicated that Commissioner Weber currently sits as the Fire Department's Representative on the City Safety Committee but will be leaving the Committee due to work commitments. Chairman McGrath clarified that appointments of members to this Committee does not come from the Fire Commission but rather from the Mayor. Retired Fire Fighter Jim Puvogel will be replacing Commissioner Weber on the Committee.

Dinosaurs Follow-up - Chairman McGrath will discuss with Chief's Report.

Chairman McGrath also noted that:

- New collective bargaining contract regarding the Dispatchers is coming up in several months
- Due to ongoing litigation, there will be no further reports to the board from the subcommittee regarding the new East Side station.

6. **Committee's Report:**

Entry Level Firefighter Test – Chairman McGrath indicated that the Entry Level Firefighter Subcommittee is renamed to the Operations Subcommittee. The Entry Level Firefighters test will be one of the items handled by this subcommittee. Chairman McGrath will be meeting with the operations subcommittee within the next few weeks.

7. **Chief's Report:**

Chief Edo reported that the new Quint is in North Haven. Chief Healey and Joe Widman will be putting the new truck "through its paces" and making sure that the final "punchlist" is complete before accepting delivery. The truck was undercoated at no additional cost to the City. If all is well, it should be here shortly.

Chief Edo reported that he presented the capital side of budget last month. The department is budgeting for a new Engine, two replacement HVAC units and a new kitchen for Station 7. Further, the phone systems in all the stations need to be updated. Copper wire must be replaced by fiber optic lines. The approximate cost for Headquarters alone is about \$20,000 dollars. Chiefs Edo, Baker and Wassmer will be presenting the budget to the Board of Aldermen on April 22.

Chief Edo informed the Commission that the three of the four recruits are doing well. One recruit sustained a fractured knee when he slipped on ice. He had to leave the academy and has been placed on light duty. The Fire Academy is holding a spot for him in the next class which begins on August 31, 2015.

Chief Edo informed the Commission that the "Dinosaurs'" are trying to increase the support roll they provide to the department. Members are being provided CERT training in case of sudden disasters or large scale public emergencies. Also, the Department of Health is requiring that anyone preparing food be certified by the Department of Health. Members will have to take a 4 hour class on food preparation. Commissioner McGrath and Chief Edo will be meeting with the "Dinosaurs" at their next breakfast meeting held on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Chief Edo reported that the old Quint 5 has been repaired and is at the shop. It is now available as a back-up unit.

Chief Edo reported that the pension agreement was ratified by the Union.

Chief Edo reminded the board of the 5K Road Race this Saturday in honor of James Mattioli sponsored by the Department and Local 944. The race is 9–11:30 starting at Fowler Field. The City's rescheduled St. Patrick's Parade will follow at 1:00 pm.

8. **New Business:**

Asst. Chief Baker reported that Marine 1 is in service. Weather has not allowed for sea trials so the engines were run while the Marine 1 was on its trailer. It will be launching as soon as weather conditions allow. Chief Baker also reported that twin engines on Marine 1 are 9 years old and reaching the end of their "life." The boat will have to be repowered soon. The Chief is seeking permission of the Board to peruse Federal Grant Money to be used to repower the boat. If approved, the Grant would provide for 75% of the cost with the City responsible for the other 25%. The total cost with extra equipment (generator and cabin heater) would be approximately \$40,000 - \$50,000 and would take a year or more to apply for and receive notification of any awarded grant money.

Commissioners Stein and Sanner made and seconded a motion to allow the Department to seek Federal Grant money for repowering and reequipping Marine 1 pursuant to the 75%/25% federal requirements and subject to approval by both the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Finance. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Edo reported that \$200,000 has been allocated by the City for refurbishing the Rescue Truck. A new chassis would be purchased from the approved State Bid List. The "box" (Patient Cabin) would be removed from existing truck and remounted on new chassis. The Chief is confident that the Department can bring this refurbished truck in significantly under the allocated amount. All work will be under warranty.

Commissioners Stein and Brennan made and seconded a motion to allow the Department to purchase a new chassis and remount the existing "box" on the new chassis at a cost not to exceed \$200,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman McGrath indicated that the Board was going to discuss the employment contract of Chief Edo which is due to expire on June 30, 2015. Chairman McGrath requested the Board move into executive session.

Commissioners Stein and Brennan made and seconded a motion to move into executive session to discuss the employment of a public officer or employee. Motion carried unanimously.

No individuals were invited by the board to present testimony or opinions.

The Board entered executive session at 19:31. Only members of the board were in attendance.

The Board came out of executive session at 19:42 and reported that no votes had been taken.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

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

None.

11. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Stein and Weber made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:44 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein.