

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners' Conference Room
at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, March 21, 2017**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:16 hours. A quorum was present.

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

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

Local 944 Union President Todd Ricci addressed the Board. He wanted to thank the three Chiefs, the Board, the City Attorneys and the City Department of Human Resources for a successful contract negotiation.

3. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – February 28, 2017

Commission Smith made a Motion to accept the Minutes of the February 28, 2017 meeting.

Commissioner Stein requested to be heard on the Motion. Commissioner Stein noted a correction that needed to be made in the Minutes as presented. He noted that on Page 3, Item 7 (Chief's Report), Item b) (Medic Unit) had an error in the 6th Sentence. He indicated that the word "increase" should be corrected to "decrease." The intended sentence should read "...both medics central should **DECREASE** overall response times."

Commissioners Smith and Stein made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the February 28, 2017, with the aforementioned correction and as otherwise presented. Motion carried unanimously

4. **Communications:**

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

- i) Chief Edo received a letter from a resident thanking Fireman Mike Plavian and North Haven Firefighter Scott Goldin for their aid at the Milford bowling lanes during their off duty hours. He was very grateful and appreciative of their help and care. Chief Edo indicated that he would send a copy of the letter to the North Haven Fire Department for the benefit of Firefighter Scott Goldin.

- ii) The fire department received a donation in the amount of \$50 for their assistance in installing smoke detectors at a resident's home.

Commissioners Stein and Smith 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:**

None.

6. **Committees Reports:**

- a) Personnel Committee: Commissioner Stein had nothing to report.
- b) Maintenance & Equipment Committee: Commissioner Brennan was at the Seeman Lane property and noted it is a great facility for the fire department and how well the department had cleaned it up.

7. **Chief's Report:**

- a) Budget - Chief Edo reported that the budget process is still underway. He further reported that there has been a request from the Mayor's Office for all departments to prepare a contingency budget 5% less than their current requests while the City is waiting for final resolution of State Budgeting issues. The Chief noted that the Department is to present its Budget to the Board of Aldermen on May 3, 2017 at 7:00 in City Hall. Chairman McGrath added that it's unlikely that the State would have its own budget in place by that date so all City budgets may be revisited depending on final State funding.
- b) Contract - Chief Edo reiterated the comments made by Union President Ricci that the negotiations went very well and that he has sent a letter to the Union expressing his gratitude. The Chief noted that the Agreement was overwhelmingly ratified by 97% of the rank and file members.
- c) New Recruits - The Chief is waiting for report cards pertaining to the new recruits at the academy. Chief Edo noted that Training Captain Carman continues to get positive feedback from the academy instructors on the four recruits.
- d) New Engine - Asst. Chief Begley reported that the new engine is at the dealership in Massachusetts. The Department did the "punch list" last Monday at the dealership and department graphics are currently being worked on. Next week the truck will be here for training and department members will inspect and make recommendations for equipment layout. It will then go back up to the dealership for the final mounting of equipment. The Chief noted that the radios are in-house and ready to be installed. Chairman McGrath inquired whether the warranty had

already begun since the City has already paid for the truck. He expressed concern that a lot of miles are being placed on the truck after driving it from Louisiana to Massachusetts and now back and forth from Massachusetts to Milford on several occasions. Asst. Chief Begley indicated that he thought the Warranty begins when we accept final delivery of the truck but that he would check with the dealer. Commissioner Brennan asked if the Superintendent of Apparatus had reviewed the truck's pump test. Asst. Chief Begley indicated that he had. Photos of the new truck (lettered as "Squad 1") were circulated amongst the Commissioners.

- e) Storm Stella - The Chief discussed the department's response to the recent winter storm Stella which including opening and manning the City's Operation Center in HQ. He noted that thankfully the storm was less intense than was forecast but that he was happy with the department's preparation and response. He noted that Battalion Chief Zak prepared an action plan for the storm and that he would be working on an after action review.

8. **New Business:**

None.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

- a) Union CBA – Chairman McGrath also wanted to thank everyone involved in the contract process. He noted that everyone involved worked hard to reach an acceptable agreement.

10. **New Equipment:**

None.

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

Commissioner McGrath noted that he has spoken to the Mayor with regard to the State budget and at this time it is impossible for the City to look at firm numbers with regard to State funding. He reiterated that going into the May 3rd budget presentation to the Board of Alderman without definitive State funding numbers leaves to many unknowns for Milford and other municipal governments to adequately anticipate in crafting local budgets.

12. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Brennan made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:31 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Prepared by Recording Secretary Diane Stein