

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners' Conference Room
at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, May 16, 2017**

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

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Smith, Stein, Riso, Stanford and Weber were present. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo, Assistant Chief Gary Baker and Assistant Chief Bernie Begley. Also present were Union President Ricci, Union Secretary Murphy and Assistant City Attorney Debra Kelly. Commissioner Brennan was unable to attend the meeting.

2. **Public Statements limited to the function of the Board of Fire Commissioners:** None

3. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – April 18, 2017.

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the April 18, 2017, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications:**

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

- i) Letter from Jan McDonald thanking “all who responded to our 911 call,...especially Tony Ramos and Matt C.”
- ii) Letter to Chief Edo from Commissioner Weber thanking the Chief for sending “the detail” to his father-in-law’s funeral.
- iii) Handwritten card from Noel thanking the firemen “for saving my drone from the tree...by blasting it with water” along with a photo.
- iv) Thank you letter from the Woodruff Family WMCA to the Fire Department for participating year after year in the healthy kid’s day event.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

None.

6. **Committees Reports:**

a) Personnel Committee: Commissioner Stein had nothing to report.

b) Maintenance & Equipment Committee: Commissioner Stanford indicated that the Committee met at and toured the shop at the Wheeler's Farm Station. She indicated that she was truly impressed how the firemen took care of the trucks and she stated that she gives them a lot of credit stating that, "those firemen are really doing a great job."

7. **Chief's Report:**

a) Budget - The Chief noted that the Department presented its budget to the Board of Alderman on May 3, 2017. He noted that there were minimal questions and everything seemed to go well. He noted that last night the Mayor and Finance Director asked the Board to implement a 2% decrease in the budget requested by the department on May 3rd due to the anticipated state budget cuts. The Board of Alderman thereafter approved this 2% reduced budget. Chairman McGrath noted that this was a budget reduction of about \$200,000 dollars.

b) New Engine – Chief Edo and Asst. Chief Begley reported that the new engine was in house and that all members received training. The vehicle is now back at the manufactures for another week while equipment is being mount.

c) New Recruits - The Chief reported that the department is still receiving excellent reports on the new recruits. They will be graduating on May 24th and the ceremony will be at Central Connecticut State University. The Chief noted that with the addition of these recruits, the department will be at full staffing levels for the first time in quite some time.

d) Fire Inspector Results - The Chief indicated that the fire inspector testing has been complete utilizing the new testing procedures. He reports that there were six candidates who made the new list. Two have already been promoted. One more will be promoted in the new fiscal year. The Fire Marshal's office will have four inspectors at that time.

e) Carnegie Civilian Hero Award- The Chief indicated that he received nomination forms for this award. He has enclosed information regarding the award in the Commissioner's packets. The Chief indicated that John O'Rourke who rescued a child who went onto the ice this past winter has received a nomination as well as Bill DeCarlo who was among several individuals who rescued 2 woman form a roll-over car fire on the connector last May. Mr. DeCarlo received burns to his hand during the rescue when he beat out flames on a victim's clothing with his hands.

8. **New Business:**

a) Grievance 17-001–17-005

Chairman McGrath noted to the Board that the Department had received five Grievances from the Union. He informed the Commissioners that copies of each Grievance were provided to Commissioners in their packets. The Chairman then invited a representative from the Union to address the Board regarding these Grievances. Arthur J. Murphy, III, Secretary, IAFF Local 944 identified himself for the Board and presented each Grievance individually to the Board, providing documentation to the Board in support of the Union's position. Shortly into this presentation, Commissioner Stein interrupted Mr. Murphy to acknowledge and note that this meeting was not being recorded and that the volume of material, speed of delivery and otherwise technical details being provided to the Board would not be contained in a verbatim transcript or otherwise summarized in great detail for the minutes being kept of the meeting. Mr. Murphy acknowledged the same and then continued his detailed presentation on all five grievances. Following the completion of Mr. Murphy's presentation of the Union's Grievances to the Board, the Chairman invited a representation from the City to address the Board. Assistant City Attorney Debra Kelly followed by Chief Douglas Edo addressed the Board detailing the Department's and City's responses to each of the Union's Grievances.

Following the conclusions of comments by Attorney Kelly and Chief Edo, Chairman McGrath indicated that he thought it would be prudent for the Board to discuss these Grievances while the presentations were still fresh in everyone's minds.

Commissioners Stein and Riso made and seconded a motion to amend the agenda to bring item XI (Executive Session) forward. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Executive Session:**

a) Grievance 17-001 – 17-005

Commissioners Stein and Riso made and seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategies and negotiations regarding pending claims and litigation pertaining to the foregoing Grievances presented to the Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Stein noted that the vote was passed by a greater than 2/3 vote of the members present. He also requested that Chief Edo, Attorney Kelly and Union Secretary Arthur Murphy remain in the building as the Board may wish testimony or opinion.

The Board went into Executive Session at 20:13 hours.

The Board invited Union Secretary Arthur Murphy into Executive Session at 20:45 hours.

Arthur Murphy exited Executive Session and the Board invited Chief Edo into Executive Session at 21:10 hours.

Chief Edo exited Executive Session and the Board invited Assistant City Attorney Debra Kelly into Executive Session at 21:20 hours.

Attorney Kelly exited Executive Session at 21:45 hours.

The Board of Fire Commissioners exited from Executive Session at 22:09 hours.

Commissioner Stein noted for the record that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

New Business Cont.:

a) Commissioners Stein and Riso made and seconded to deny Grievances 17-001, 17-002, 17-003, 17-004 and 17-005. Motion carried unanimously.

10. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

11. **New Equipment:**

None.

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

Commissioner Weber stated he visited the shop and was very impressed. Commissioner Stanford added that in her opinion, “the shop is very busy; they do fine work; they save the City a lot of money and they don’t get paid enough.”

Adjournment:

Commissioners Smith and Stanford made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 22:12 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Prepared by Recording Secretary Diane Stein