

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting Commissioners' Conference Room
at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, May 19, 2015**

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

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

Commissioner Weber informed Chairman McGrath that due to his current work commitments in Hartford he couldn't make this meeting. However, he indicated that his work location would soon be in Bridgeport and that he was hopeful to resume attending the Commission meetings.

Commissioner Sanner informed Chairman McGrath that he would be unable to attend tonight's meeting due to work commitments.

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

None.

3. **Consideration of Minutes**:

Special Meeting - April 7, 2015

Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2015, Special Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Meeting – April 21, 2015

Commissioners Riso and Brennan made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the April 21, 2015, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications**:

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

a. Thank you letter to Chief Edo from Joseh Maselli, Manager of Construction, at So. CT Gas Co. regarding the Melba Fire on 4/11/2015. He communicated that it was a privilege to work together with the Milford Fire Department to protect the public.

b. Thank you note from Alisha Williams, Health & Wellness Director of the YMCA, to the Milford Fire Department for participating in the Annual Healthy Kids Day which had approximately 500 participants.

c. Email from Bob Fiore, President and Founder of CT Epilepsy Advocate, to Chief Edo for the department's quick response to a possible gas leak. The fireman who responded were great and deserve a thank you.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

New Recruits – Chairman McGrath and Chief Edo went to the Fire Academy and met with the new recruits. He recommended that the Board Members try to visit the Academy.

Dispatchers – Contract with the fire dispatchers expires at the end of June. Police Chief Mello suggested to Chief Edo that the fire dispatchers be combined with the police dispatchers. Chief Edo indicated that he would consider Chief Mello's suggestion for future consideration. Chairman McGrath indicated that following this suggestion from the P.D., the City Finance Director recommended to the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen that the financial line item for the fire dispatchers be transferred from the fire department budget to the police department budget strictly for accounting conveniences purposes only. This resulted in 8 dispatchers being removed from the Fire Department Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 to the police department's budget. Chairman McGrath indicated that the fire dispatchers were still subject to the fire department chain of command and oversight by the Board of Fire Commissioners. This was strictly an accounting financial convenience recommended by the City Financial Director. Collective bargaining with the fire dispatchers collective bargaining unit and the City is going to begin in early June. Chairman McGrath will report back on the status of any new agreement for consideration by this Board.

Asst. Chief Baker interjected that he and Milford Police Captain John Alexopoulos attended a training session on the liability of 911 call centers particularly regarding quality assurance and the EMS process. Asst. Chief Baker indicated that Milford appears to be currently deficient regarding some aspects of the function and/training of the call center. Chief Baker assumes that Captain Alexopoulos will report these deficiencies to Police Chief Mello who is the P.S.A.P. Director.

6. **Committee's Report:**

No Committee Reports

7. **Chief's Report:**

Chief Edo reported that DPH Hearing regarding AMR is still not finalized. City attorneys have to write a brief and then there is 45 day period for the Hearing Officer to issue a final ruling. The Chief is in the process of evaluating and detailing department needs to address with the Mayor so that the department can respond quickly to a favorable ruling.

Chief Edo reported that the new chase arrived for the Medic Unit. The City is currently out to bid for a refurbished box (passenger compartment) for the new chase. Bids close June 4th. Should take about 4 months for successful vendor to complete work attaching refurbished box to new chase.

Chief Edo indicated that 3 days of departmental training will begin on the new Quint shortly. Quint will then be parked at the East Side Fire Station where it will be permanently housed and further drilled for two weeks before being placed into service.

Chief Edo informed the Commission that the new recruits will be graduating from the fire academy shortly. The graduation ceremony will be in Enfield.

8. **New Business:**

None.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

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

Commissioner Brennan inquired whether the department was down a command officer (Captain or LT) on the D (Chief Zack's) shift. Chief Edo indicated that the department was at full command staff.

Commissioner Riso inquired about the date and location of the upcoming fire academy graduation ceremony.

11. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Brennan made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:55 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein.