

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners Conference Room at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Call to Order: Chairman Riso called the meeting to order at 1904 hours. A quorum was present.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners Thomas Riso, Karen Craig, John Healy, Richard Smith, Howard Stein, Jonathan Bercham, and William A. Brennan. Also present were Chief Louis A. LaVecchia, Assistant Chief Robert J. Healey, Assistant Chief Daniel L. Johnson, Union President Paul Geer, and Union President Todd Ricci.

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

None.

3. Swearing In:

None.

4. Consideration of Minutes:

Regular Meeting - May 18, 2010

Chairman Riso noted a correction was needed for two typographical errors in the minutes; the date in the motion to accept the minutes needed to be changed to April 20, and the motion to swear in Lieutenant Heenan needed to be removed. He also noted that the April 20th Addendum needed to be included.

Commissioner Smith noted the absence of his name from the roll call.

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Commissioners Stein and Smithy made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the May 18, 2010, Regular Meeting, subject to corrections as discussed,, with Addendum to be attached.. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Communications:

- Letter from Fire Chief Brian Rooney of Bridgeport thanking the Chief and Department for coverage while in response to a call on May 2nd.
- Thank-you letter from Fire Chief James Cavanaugh of Stratford thanking the Chief for the Department's assistance in the April 30th fire on North Peters Lane in Stratford.
- Invitation from James Caruso to attend the Volunteer Firemens' Memorial on June 13th.
- Note from Warren Mitchell, including a \$1000 donation in memoriam of his mother, Florence Mitchell.

Commissioners Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion that the \$1000 donation go to the Good and Welfare Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Committee Reports

Assistant Chief Johnson reported that Engine 5 is currently out and should be back in service tomorrow.

Commissioner Healy reported that the Building Committee met on the 10th at Station 8. The Committee has narrowed the architects down to three: BL Companies, DeCarlo & Doll, Inc., and Silver Petrucelli. Commissioner Healy said the next meeting of the Committee will be on June 21st, and they will be holding interviews of said architects.

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The minutes for all previous Building Committee Meetings have been posted on the Fire Department's website.

7. Chief's Report

Chief LaVecchia informed the Board that the Department has sent out job offers to two individuals.

The Chief then mentioned that this would be Assistant Chief Johnson's final Board meeting, as he is retiring.

The Chief also mentioned that there would be a number of promotions coming up within the Department.

The Chief reminded the Board that the New Haven County Fire Commissioners Meeting would be held June 16, 2010.

Chief LaVecchia reported that there has been a request made of the Department to sponsor the Explorer Post. The Chief said that he would be inviting a representative from the Post to the next meeting to make a formal presentation. Union President Paul Geer mentioned that he had been a part of Explorer Post, and explained a bit about the program, saying it is similar to the Boy Scouts of America program.

The Chief asked the Board to go over the vacation time request.

Commissioners Craig and Stein made and seconded a motion to enter executive session for personnel matters. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board entered executive session at 1925 hours.

The Board came out of executive session at 2005 hours.

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Commissioner Craig reported that there was a letter from the Chief dated June 15th requesting to hold over unused vacation days.

Commissioners Smith and Brennan made and seconded a motion to accept the request to hold over unused vacation time. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Riso suggested a sub-committee be set up, with Commissioner Bercham as the Chairman, and that Chairman Riso and Commissioner Smith would be on said sub-committee, to report back to the Board at a future date.

8. Unfinished Business

Chief LaVecchia discussed the firefighter's test and the current three issues: the City Attorney's opinion, which was in support of the Department hiring off the current list; the age limit; and adding additional points to applicants within a ten-mile radius of Headquarters.

Commissioners Healy and Smith made and seconded a motion to enter executive session to discuss the opinion of the City Attorney. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board entered executive session at 2010 hours.

The Board came out of executive session at 2055 hours.

Commissioners Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion for the Milford Fire Department to adopt an age-restriction policy, that no person is eligible for the firefighter's test beyond 35 years of age. Motion carried unanimously.

9. New Business

None.

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10. Comments/Concerns of the Commissioners:

Commissioner Healy wished Assistant Chief Johnson happiness and pleasure in retirement.

Assistant Chief Johnson thanked everyone. He said he enjoyed meeting the Board of Commissioners, and that he was going to miss it.

11. Adjournment

Commissioners Smith and Healy made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 2059 hours.
Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by C. Birney