

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting Commissioners' Conference Room
at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, June 16, 2015**

1. **Call to Order**: Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:05 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: Commissioners Riso, Brennan, Smith, Sanner, Weber and Stein 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 - May 19, 2015

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the May 19, 2015 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications**:

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

a. \$650.00 in charitable donations was received by the Milford Fire Department in memory of Anthony G. Barone. Chief Edo will make contact with the funeral home to send a thank you letter to the family. Commissioner Smith made a motion to deposit the money in the Good and Welfare Fund. Commissioner Stein suggested dividing the money and allowing Chief Edo to use half of the money in the best interest of the department.

Commissioner Smith withdrew his motion and Commissioners Brennan and Riso made and seconded a motion to deposit \$325 to the Good and Welfare Fund and \$325 to an appropriate Milford Fire Department account in the Chief's discretion. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Thank you letter to Chief Edo from Tara Navara, Chief Development Officer of the Make-A-Wish of Connecticut, for the Milford Fire Department's continued support at Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo. A special thanks to Butch and the Special Service Unit who served food to more than 1,000 participants. This event granted a young boy a surprise trip to Walt Disney World with his family.

c. A thank you letter from Philip Block to Mayor Blake and Dr. Fresser thanking them along with Anthony Vitale for services and teamwork from the Foran athletic staff, fire department and the emergency response team when a sudden emergency occurred while at the Foran Lacrosse field.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

July Meeting - Chairman McGrath would like to hold next month's meeting at the new (Eastside) firehouse. He would like all the Commissioners to view the building and get an update. The meeting will begin at 7:00. Chairman McGrath will determine at the July meeting, whether to meet in August.

Oyster Festival - Chairman McGrath received a call from the Oyster Committee with regard to the emergency procedures and the guidelines the committee must follow. Chief Edo will further discuss in the Chief's Report.

6. **Committee's Report:**

No Committee Reports

7. **Chief's Report:**

Chief Edo reported that he and Assistant Chief Gary Baker have been working with the Oyster Festival committee on their concerns for public safety in Fowler Field when the crowds become so large. The Fire Department has suggested a safety evaluation be performed by an independent company to accommodate emergency exits and any other sudden emergency.

Chief Edo reported that Superintendent Eisenhandler will be retiring. He will be promoting Assistant Superintendent Joe Widman to the position and will need to administer testing for a replacement for the Asst. Superintendent position.

Chief Edo reported that the new Quint 5 training is complete and that it will be in service by July 1st.

Chief Edo reported that the bids are back for the new chase and they have chosen a bid. He reported that there were 2 bids received. The accepted bid was just under \$150,000 to perform the work pursuant to the bid specs. The other bid was lower but was based on incomplete and inaccurate bid information and/or specs.

Chief Edo reported that C-MED in New Haven will be dissolved as of June 30th. Milford Fire will be going with Southwest C-MED at Bridgeport Hospital. The Chief reports that this should result in a significant cost savings to the City. Commissioner Brennan asked whether there will be changes to Department radio frequencies. The department already has the capacity to communicate with SW C-MED. There are no changes that need to be made.

Chief Edo reported that there was a preliminary discussion with the dispatcher's union regarding the collective bargaining agreement, which expires at the end of June.

Chief Edo informed the Commission that the 3 new recruits all graduated at the top of the class. Firefighter Hickey won the "Hard Charger Award." Again, compliments were given to Chief Edo on how prepared and committed his recruits were at the Academy. Chief Edo believes that the departments' in-house training program really pays off.

Commissioner Riso asked if the department was now at 100% capacity. Chief Edo responded that with the next 3 recruits starting at the Fire Academy in August the department will be running at full capacity.

Regarding EMS billing, Chief reported that the City's attorneys have submitted legal briefs and a decision is due in late July or August.

8. **New Business:**

None.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

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

Chairman McGrath would like the Commissioners to review the Dispatcher contract in their packet. Also, he would ask the Commissioners to review the budget approved by the Aldermen which is a 3% increase from last year. He wants to extend a "thank you" to Chief Edo and the department for a great job on the budget. There may be more funds allocated from Hartford.

Chairman McGrath commented on the Graduation and the recognition of the award of Firefighter Hickey.

Chairman McGrath also stated what a great loss it is losing Superintendent Eisenhandler and that it will be difficult to replace him. The Commission extends a thank you for an outstanding job.

11. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:33 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Riso and Brennan made and seconded a motion to Re-open the Meeting at 7:36 hours. Motion carried unanimously. All Commissioners were present. Chief's Edo and Baker were also present.

Commissioners Smith and Weber made and seconded a motion to permit the Chief on behalf of the department to administer a promotion test for the Asst. Superintendent position that will soon become vacant upon the promotion of Joe Widman to Superintendent. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to re-adjourn at 7:38 hours. Motion carried unanimously

Recorded by Diane Stein.