

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Training Room at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, June 26, 2013**

Call to Order: Chairman Riso called the meeting to order at 1901 hours. A quorum was present.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners Thomas Riso, Kevin McGrath, Richard Smith, Joseph Weber, Aaron Sanner, and William A. Brennan. Also present were Acting Chief Robert Healey and Union President Michael Dunn.

Commissioner Stein was excused.

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

3. Swearing In

Battalion Chief Douglas Edo was sworn in as Assistant Chief.

Chairman Riso commented that Assistant Chief Edo has also completed Fire Marshal school.

4. Consideration of Minutes:
Regular Meeting – May 21, 2013

Commissioners McGrath and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the May 21, 2013, Regular Meeting, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Communications:

- a. Letter to EMS Firefighters from John Daniel, III, thanking them for their assistance on May 30th, 2013, during a cardiac emergency. He expressed his gratitude and said he will never forget the men's care and concern.
- b. Thank-you card from Rich and Sharon Reilly thanking all members of the Department for their care of their aunt Philomena "Honey" Stewing over the years.

Chairman Riso added it is nice to hear the accolades from Milford citizens to the Department.

6. Committee Reports

East Side Fire Station

Commissioner Brennan reported the Department is currently occupying the new East Side Fire Station, but without a permanent Certificate of Occupancy; the building currently holds a temporary Certificate of Occupancy. He explained there are still some minor issues to be handled. He informed the Commissioners there would be a meeting with Committee Chairman John Healy, City-hired Attorney Jeff Donofrio, and himself with the building engineers and architects to discuss the remaining issues.

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Fire Chief Selection Committee Report

Commissioner McGrath reported the Committee has completed its work on-schedule. He thanked the Personnel Department of Milford, the Connecticut Fire Chief Association, and Commissioners Riso and Stein for their help in the process.

Commissioner McGrath said there are a few minor chores to complete on the process that will be done within the next 24 to 48 hours and expects to be prepared to appoint the new Fire Chief on July 1st.

Commissioners Brennan and Smith made and seconded a motion to hold a Special Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners on July 1, 2013, 7:00 pm, at Fire Headquarters to appoint the next Chief of the Milford Fire Department. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Chief's Report

Acting Chief Healey reported 200 candidates were eligible to take the written Fire Test, of which 15 were no-shows. He said 100 candidates will move onto the swim test, with 72.02 being the top cutoff score of the written test. He explained an outside company will perform the oral portion of the testing.

The Acting Chief said the narrow band grid testing is ongoing; Battalion Chief Chapman has been coordinating the effort.

Marine 1 is taking longer in the body shop than anticipated. He said the Department is looking to implement a "plan B" contingency plan using Marine 2 while Marine 1 remains out of service. Acting Chief Healey said Marine 2 is very workable and has already been used in a couple of kayaker rescues on Long Island Sound. Chairman Riso commented that with the 4th of July approaching, the need for water apparatus increases. Acting Chief Healey said Engine 7 is out for body work for damage sustained during a winter storm and Engine 1's light bar will be upgraded in the near future.

Acting Chief Healey explained the budget accounts are currently at their 2011 levels. He said regular wages for Firefighters will increase. He commented the next fiscal year will be a difficult year.

The Acting Chief said the Department annually participates in a burn camp. He explained that in years past, the Department was able to send every member for two or three days of the burn camp, but with this current budget, he does not believe that is possible this year; at best, he believes each member of the Department will be able to attend a possible one day at the burn camp. Acting Chief Healey added the swap medic program the Fire Department collaborates on with the Police Department can no longer be funded. He explained the core mission of the Fire Department is fire and EMS services and so that is where the Department's fiscal energy needs to be directed. He commented the burn camp and the Oyster Festival are both Milford charities and he believes the Department should still take part in both events.

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The Acting Chief informed Commissioner Brennan that the O2 generator and compressor were installed the East Side Fire Station earlier in the day.

Acting Chief Healey said the Department has requested a pickup truck with a plow attachment from the Mayor. He explained the current one in the Department's possession is a 2000 model and not in great shape.

Acting Chief Healey told the Commissioners he has a final count of additional vacation days and comp hours for which he is requesting approval: 15 vacation days and 587 comp hours.

The Acting Chief explained that through the a grant from the American Fire Act, the Zetron system will be replaced with a new system. He explained the bonding for this project is being taken to the Board of Aldermen for approval by the Mayor.

Commissioner McGrath inquired if there was a working account in the Department where donations from civic groups could be deposited and utilized for events like the burn camp and Oyster Festival. Acting Chief Healey explained donations are deposited into either the Good & Welfare Fund or the EMS Equipment Fund. He inquired of Union President Dunn if the Union could accept donations from civic groups for situations like this; Union President Dunn said he would look into it. He added the burn camp runs the second week in July.

Commissioner McGrath inquired if there is currently water access in an emergency. Acting Chief Healey informed him that the Police Department has a boat they can use in emergencies. He added the shop is making Marine 1 a priority. Commissioner Brennan inquired when it is anticipated Marine 1 will be back in service; Acting Chief Healey said he expects it by mid-July. Commissioner Brennan asked Assistant Chief Edo if a portable pump has been looked into; Assistant Chief Healey said it had been.

Commissioner McGrath inquired if Acting Chief Healey needed the Board to make a motion approving his requested vacation days and additional comp hours; the Acting Chief said the Board voted previously to approve his request, but wanted clarification on the exact amount requested.

8. New Business

Disposition of Station 5 & 6

Acting Chief Healey said although the Board has discussed the disposition of Stations 5 and 6 in previous meetings, no actual motion has been made. He explained it was originally thought that Station 6 would be used as a warehouse for extra Department equipment, but Seemans Lane will now be used for that purpose. Currently, Station 6 is being used to hold extra radio equipment by the Police Department.

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Commissioners McGrath and Smith made and seconded a motion for the Board of Fire Commissioners to act upon the disposition of Stations 5 and 6 to the City of Milford. Motion carried unanimously.

Hose to New London

Acting Chief Healey explained that through a grant, the Department was able to upgrade all their existing hose, and so have surplus equipment. He said he has spoken with the Chief of the New London Fire Department, and they are willing to accept the surplus hose. Because the hose is technically City property, the issue of legal liability needs to be discussed. He added he believes this will be a good gesture to the City of New London, as they are experiencing financial issues at this time.

Commissioners Brennan and McGrath made and seconded a motion to donate any surplus, untested hose to the New London Fire Department. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Unfinished Business:

None.

10. Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:

None.

11. Adjournment

Commissioners Smith and Sanner made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 1924 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by C. Birney