

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting  
Commissioner's Conference Room  
At Fire Headquarters  
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT  
Tuesday, July 17, 2018**

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

**Roll Call:** In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Smith, Stein, Brennan, Stanford, Weber and Riso were present. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo and Assistant Chief Begley.

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

None.

3. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – June 19, 2018

*Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the June 19, 2018, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

4. **Communications:**

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communication:

i) A thank you note to Chief Edo for the department's support in the Charles Island SUP Cup.

ii) A thank you letter from Fire Chief Robert McGrath of Stratford to the department for its assistance at a recent fire at 10 Research Drive in Stratford on July 9, 2018.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

None.

6. **Committees Reports:**

a) Personnel Committee: Commissioner Stein noted that the sub-committee has met and is continuing to reevaluate the hiring and testing process.

b) Maintenance & Equipment Committee - Commissioner Brennan indicated that he met with Asst. Chief Begley and they discussed the need to stay on top of the department's apparatus needs and not fall behind in placing orders since the turnaround time for a truck is a year or more. They also discussed the need to have qualified mechanics in the garage and the department's policy of disposing of retired apparatus. Commissioner Brennan was informed that the department does not get any money for any retired apparatus that is sold. Rather, any money acquired for the sale of equipment goes back to the City. Commissioner Brennan reported that he was told that it is in the department's best interests to retain retired apparatus and repurpose it. A discussion ensued about a recently retired ambulance that is going to be repurposed as an incident command vehicle.

## **7. Chief's Report:**

Budget – Chief Edo reported that the department was wrapping up the recently completed fiscal year. It was expected that there would be no remaining surplus nor deficit. The department spent every penny in its budget exactly on point. The Chief thought the department did a fine job considering that \$250,000 was eliminated from the budget.

Gator – Grant money was received, and the department purchased a new Gator. It is expected that this new gator will be fitted with a stretcher and kept at HQ to be used for the special events that takes place downtown; at Fowler Field; and Lisman Landing. Currently, the department must take the Gator from Walnut Beach which maneuvers the Jet Ski to the water when rescues are necessary and bring it to other places in the City when it is needed for large events. This will no longer be necessary when the second Gator is in place.

A discussion took place regarding the State's promise to relocate the Walnut Beach Gator and Jet ski as part of its redevelopment of Silver Sands. It was noted that during busy weekends, cars still make it difficult to access the Gator and Jet Ski in an emergency. Chairman McGrath indicated that the State was reneging on its promise to build a shed of some sort near the water to house the Gator and Jet Ski. The State wanted to house it near the State Maintenance building that is being constructed. The Chairman contacted our state Senators and Representatives to express the department's concerns that this location would impact response times in a water emergency. Following that intervention, the State agreed to pour a cement pad in proximity to the water. The City will then be able to place some kind of shelter there to house the Gator and Jet Ski.

Upcoming Events – The Chief informed the Commission how busy the City has become on the weekends with events, including the upcoming Oyster Festival and that having the new Gator at the downtown events will be beneficial. Other events that attract large crowds include the annual Pirates Day, Duck Race, Irish Festival, Harbor Brew Festival and Octoberfest.

Finally, the Chief noted that the new ambulance recently went into service and shortly thereafter was taken out of service due to an AC leak. It was sent back to the manufacturer and should be back in service soon. The Chief also noted that the manufacturer informed the department that an identical demo was going to be available and that the manufacturer would give the department the first option to purchase it. The department is considering its options.

8. **New Business**

a) Discussion & Summary on Physical Testing – None

b) New Eligibility list approval - Chairman McGrath received the recently completed Entry Level Firefighters Eligibility List from Chief Edo and asked the Commission to review it. There were 9 individuals on the list.

*Commissioners Stanford and Smith made and seconded a motion to approve and certify the Entry Level Firefighters Eligibility List.*

*Chairman McGrath requested a polling vote from each Commissioner on this Motion*

*Chairman McGrath voted in favor*

*Commissioner Stanford voted in favor*

*Commissioner Smith voted in favor*

*Commissioner Weber voted in favor*

*Commissioner Brennan voted in favor*

*Commissioner Riso voted in favor*

*Commissioner Stein Abstained.*

*Motion Carried with 6 votes in favor and 1 abstention*

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

10. **New Equipment:**

Commissioner Brennan noted that he would like the minutes to reflect his belief that the City should recognize the need the department has for an additional ambulance and that the City should get the money together to purchase the demo that the Chief discussed in his report.

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

Commissioner Riso asked if there was any further progress or discussions with the Milford Yacht Club regarding relocating Marine 1 to the head of the harbor? Chairman McGrath indicated that there were still ongoing discussions.

The Chairman told the Commission that there would be no meeting scheduled for August.

12. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Webber made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:40  
Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein