

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Training Room at Eastside Fire Station
New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, July 21, 2015

1. **Call to Order**: Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:01 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Riso, Brennan, Smith and Stein were present. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo, Assistant Chiefs Gary Baker and Bernie Bagley.

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

None.

3. **Consideration of Minutes**:

Regular Meeting - June 16, 2015

Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the June 16, 2015 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications**:

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

a. A \$25.00 donation was received in memory of Anthony G. Barone from Vogel CPA's, P.C.

Commissioners Smith and Brennan made and seconded a motion to deposit the aforementioned donation to the Good and Welfare Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

b. A thank you letter from the Junior Women's Club of Milford to the Milford Fire Department for their participation and support in their Touch a Truck Event on June 7, 2015.

c. A thank you note to the Milford Fire Department for their assistance in providing shelter to a young woman following a motor vehicle collision until her family who lived out of state could come and pick her up.

d. Email to Chief Edo from the City's website thanking the department for rescuing a cat who was stuck in a car engine compartment on July 11, 2015.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath on behalf of the Commission wanted to congratulate Superintendent Eisenhandler and Asst. Chief Healey on their retirement and thank them for their many years of service.

Chairman McGrath also extended congratulations to the newly promoted Asst. Chief Begley.

Chairman McGrath indicated that he expects a favorable decision on the departments EMS billing sometime next week.

6. **Committees Reports:**

Safety Committee - There will be a meeting this Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. at Fire Headquarters.

7. **Chief's Report:**

Chief Edo reported that the Oyster Festival committee's preliminary report on the safety evaluation requested by the Fire Department has been received and has addressed the departments concerns for public safety in Fowler Field. Chief Edo and Asst. Baker are continuing to monitor and are awaiting the final report before they sign off. Chief Edo responded that he would be meeting with the Oyster Festival committee a week before the festival to insure the final plans are put into place.

Chief Edo reported that the new Quint 5 went into services on July 1, 2015 and unfortunately was in an accident this week. There was a small amount of damage to the back of the truck which will be repaired.

Chief Edo reported that he received correspondence and has received phone calls expressing concern for emergency vehicles access into the proposed real estate development off of Wheelers Farm road known as "Wheelers Woods." Chairman McGrath also noted that he had received a telephone call from the press and told them that anyone can come and listen to a meeting. Commissioner Stein asked why the department was receiving these inquiries. Chief Edo indicated that the Fire Marshal's office is reviewing plans submitted by the developer and will take appropriate action in accordance with the law.

Chief Edo reported that there was a scheduled contract negotiation meeting with the dispatcher's union tomorrow.

Chief Edo reported that the move to SWC-MED is completed.

Chief Edo reported that he has done preliminary work regarding next year's rolling stock bonding needs. The Chief will be seeking a new replacement engine as part of a bond package due to the City in February.

Chief Edo indicated that the refurbished rescue truck would move into the successful bidders assembly shop in 2 weeks. It's expected to take 4 months to complete the work once it's in the shop.

8. **New Business:**

a. August Fire Commission Meeting will be held. Commissioner Stein noted that we may need to meet with regard to the EMS hearing decision due next week. Chairman McGrath agreed noting that additional decisions may need to be made based on the anticipated court ruling.

b. New Equipment - Chairman McGrath informed the Commission that this will be a new lined item on the monthly agenda.

c. Retirements/Promotion updates within the department - Chief Edo reported that there are two retirements and one promotion. The department will be testing for a new mechanic shortly and a Lieutenant's position in the Fall. The four new recruits will be starting the Fire Academy August 1st.

d. Discussion on Swearing In & Department Awards of staff for 2015/2016 - Chief Edo suggested that September/October would be a good time for the swearing-in, promotion, and award ceremony. Chief Edo would be able to have the recruits at the Academy come down for the swearing in. Chairman McGrath will put together an Awards Subcommittee.

e. Chairman McGrath noted that with the retirement of Asst. Chief/Fire Marshal Healey and pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 29-297 a new Fire Marshal needs to be appointed.

Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a motion to amend the Agenda to add the Appointment of a Fire Marshal to new business. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion to appoint Asst. Chief Gary Baker as Fire Marshal. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

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

Chairman McGrath suggested that the Commissioners tour the Eastside Firehouse after the meeting to see some of the issues that have occurred with the building from the past few winters. If anyone has subsequent questions, they can contact the Chairman.

Commissioner Brennan offered his opinion that the department should make rules and policy pertaining to building codes and emergency access and should then enforce its policies.

11. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:35 hours.
Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein.