

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
September 15, 2009

The Board of Fire Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at Fire Headquarters, 72 New Haven Avenue. Chairman Riso called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners' Thomas Riso, John Healy, Carmen Corvino, Richard Smith, William Brennan, Howard Stein and Jonathan Berchem. Also present were Chief Louis A. LaVecchia, Assistant Chief Daniel L. Johnson and Assistant Chief Robert J. Healey

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

None.

3. Consideration of Minutes of June 16, 2009

Commissioners' Corvino and Smith made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2009 meeting as presented. Motion carried 6 yes (Commissioners' Riso, Healy, Corvino, Smith Brennan, Berchem) and 1 abstain (Commissioner Stein, not present at June 16, 2009 meeting).

Consideration of Minutes of Special Meeting July 21, 2009

Commissioners' Healy and Smith made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting July 21, 2009 as presented. Motion carried 6 yes (Commissioners' Riso, Healy, Corvino, Smith, Brennan, Berchem) and 1 abstain (Commissioner Stein, not present at July 21, 2009 special meeting).

4. Communications

Commissioner Healy reported he received the following correspondence:

- Thank you card from Barbara Walker dated July 27, 2009 to Milford Fire Department.
- Letter from Milford Harbor Duck Race Co-Chair Diane Knuth dated June 2009 addressed to retired Assistant Chief Cooke 'Thank you to your whole team for their much appreciated hard work and support'.
- Thank you to Milford Fire Department for honoring our artwork in the Fire Prevention Poster Contest from winners Monica Malangone and Jessica Bologna.
- Letter dated 10-Jul-09 from Dan Rugg, United States Naval Academy Sailing Master to Capt. Zak thank you for Milford Fire Department participation in welcoming squadron visit.
- Letter dated August 5, 2009 from City of Bridgeport Harbormaster Robert A. Scinto Sr. to Chief LaVecchia; expressing gratitude to the boat crew for their help during Swim Across the Sound.
- Thank you letter dated June 4, 2009 to Chief LaVecchia from Mindy Natale, LMFT Clinical Coordinator for Milford Youth and Family Services for the Departments participation in Police and Youth community Day on May 30, 2009.
- June 30, 2009 thank you letter to Chief LaVecchia from Walter & Josephine Kirk for Fire Department assistance during an automobile accident.
- Thank you letter to Chief LaVecchia and to the members of Milford Fire Department from Fire Chief David A. Collins of West Shore Fire District for coverage during a fire in West Haven on August 16, 2009, as well as the excellent work done at the fire scene by the Milford Canteen Unit.

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- Letter dated 9/2/09 from Battalion Chief Healey to Mr. Scott Orie, Manager of Custom Bandag, Inc. Thank you for the donation of 2 large scrap tires for use by our members for physical fitness training.
- Letter dated 9/2/09 from Milford Professional Firefighters Assoc. Local 944 to Commissioners asking permission to conduct solicitation of funds for 'Toys For Tots' program. Commissioners' Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion to permit Local 944 to solicit donations for the 'Toys For Tots' program. Motion carried unanimously.
- Letter dated 8/24/09 to Chief LaVecchia from William Berluti thanking the Department for mutual aid assistance at a fire that happened at his building on Forest Road, West Haven.
- Letter dated 8/18/09 to Chief LaVecchia from Chief Peter V. Massaro from Allington Fire District acknowledging great service and support MFD provided during a 3 alarm fire on August 16, 2009. Also stated the 'Canteen service is a great asset and a blessing'.
- Letter of thanks dated 6/14/09 from Maggie Woodwin & Barb Zink of The Junior Woman's Club for the Departments participation in their Touch-A-Truck event.

5. Committee Reports

- Commissioner Brennan reported the Sub-Committee formed to review fire stations and capitol improvements met in early July to assess the need for a new fire station.
- AC Johnson reported on Apparatus stating all trucks are in service at this time with the exception of Engine 8 and Engine 9, which are in for routine maintenance.

6. Chief's Report

- Jim Amann called and asked me to support him in his run for Governor. Jim supports the fire service in many ways and supported Milford Firefighters assisting with a tuition reduction program. Jim is a local 'Son of Milford' making this a special case for me and so I am asking permission from the Board of Fire Commissioners for myself and the Union to assist Jim Amann in his run for Governor, while in uniform, further asking for an exception to General Rule 23. Commissioner Stein said it could be a problem when you get into partisan politics. Chief LaVecchia stated I think this is a unique situation. Commissioner Corvino agreed. Discussion ensued. Commissioners' Corvino and Healy made and seconded a motion: The Board of Fire Commissioners suspends General Rule 23 to enable the Department to support Jim Amann's candidacy for Governor. Motion carried 6 yes (Commissioners' Riso, Healy, Corvino, Smith, Brennan, Berchem) and 1 no (Commissioner Stein). Assistant Chief R.J. Healey stated according to the rules, this needs to be posted.
- On the recommendation of Commissioner Brennan, while attending Fire Chief's Conference, Chief LaVecchia stopped by the Supthen display and mentioned our problems with our Quint. They were surprised they hadn't been notified and promised results.
- AC Johnson reported that he along with EOC Coordinator Dan Worroll, and Senior Fire Inspector Andy Vargo met with Ruth Parkins, Manager of Public Affairs for Iroquois Pipeline Operating Company to discuss some of the Departments needs and read the following from an e-mail he received dated 9/16/09 from Ruth Parkins: I have spoken to Mayor Richetelli and he is fully supportive of the Fire Department receiving a project-related community grant from Iroquois as follows: \$9,000 to cover the cost of unlimited minutes for the Code Red system for one year (June 2009-May 2010) and \$10,187.59 for the purchase of

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a Live Fire Extinguisher Simulator Training System. However, the Mayor indicated that prior to accepting the funding, the Board of Alderman must approve it; therefore it will be on the agenda for consideration at their October 5th meeting. Discussion ensued regarding Code Red unlimited minutes cut from the budget and details on the Simulator Training System. Assistant Chief R.J. Healey said the grant would be beneficial to our citizens and would enable MFD to provide Industry requested training at places like the Hospital and Nursing Homes.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

8. New Business

None.

9. Comments/Concerns of the Commissioners:

- In follow-up from Chairman Riso to AC Healey – In your July report you noted an incident involving a resident's repeated visits to Station 8. AC Healey said it has resolved itself.
- At 8:10pm Commissioners' Corvino and Healy made and seconded a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss two personnel matters and ISO. Motion carried unanimously. Chief LaVecchia, Assistant Chief Johnson and Assistant Chief Healey remained at the request of the Commission. At 9:00pm Commissioner Berchem left Executive Session. At 9:13pm Commissioners' Healy and Smith made and seconded a motion to come out of Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.
- Per ISO recommendation, the Board of Fire Commissioners formally requests that Mayor Richetelli form a citywide fire station needs committee with the scope and charge to:
 1. Evaluate the current locations of the city's fire stations and make recommendations to add, combine or eliminate any of the current fire stations.
 2. Determine the best location for any needed fire stations.

10. Adjournment

Commissioners' Smith and Stein made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:17p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mimi Mudrick