

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Training Room at Westside Fire Station
349 Naugatuck Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, September 16, 2015

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

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Brennan, Smith and Stein were present. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo and Assistant Chiefs Gary Baker and Bernie Begley. Commissioner Weber was out of town. Commissioner Sanner emailed the Chairman and was unable to make the meeting.

Commissioner Riso arrived at 19:09

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

None.

3. **Consideration of Minutes**:

Regular Meeting - August 18, 2015

Commissioners Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the August 18, 2015, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications**:

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

a. A thank you letter from the City of North Branford for the use of the department's field lights at their Corn and Potato Festival.

b. A thank you letter to the Milford Fire Department from Patrick Foye, Executive Director of The Port Authority of NY & NJ for the department's continued commitment to honor the first responders and all other lives that were lost and those who continue to face challenges from the tragic events on September 11th.

5. **Chairman's Report**:

Chairman McGrath reported that the City has won the DPH hearing regarding AMR. However, there is a 14 day appeal process to file a brief. The department is working with the City in preparing to move as quickly as possible to be up and running once notice is received on the final ruling. Chairman McGrath will continued to keep everyone updated.

Chairman McGrath also thanked the department and administration for their testimony in Hartford and expressed what a great job they did representing Milford.

Chairman McGrath suggested that the November 17th Commissioners Regular Meeting be held at the Wheeler's Farm Fire Station.

Commissioners Stein and Brennan made and seconded a motion that the November Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting be published and held at the Wheeler's Farm Station (Station 7). Motion carried unanimously.

The swearing-in and department awards ceremony should be scheduled for sometime in March/April 2016. A date will be forthcoming.

Chairman McGrath also thanked the department for their diligence at the Oyster Festival to ensure all safety measures were met and exits were properly managed.

6. Committees Reports:

The Safety Committee is continuing to work with outside consultants in putting together the physical portion of the Fire Department Test. Once the physical test is finalized the Department and the City will review it.

7. Chief's Report:

Chief Edo reported that jet ski training is ongoing with only one shift left. He also reported that while the Jet Ski was training today, 2 individuals were swept off a nearby sandbar and were clinging to a buoy in the water unable to return to the sandbar. The jet ski was used to rescue both individuals. The new trailer to store the jet ski at the beach has not arrived yet.

Chief Edo reported that the new recruits at the Academy are doing well and that graduation is scheduled for December.

Chief Edo also commented on the success of the Oyster Festival with regard to the implementation of the Safety Plan.

Chief Edo reported that the department's "Hands for Life" program will take place on September 17th at the Parsons Complex. The program has been open to all City employees and will run from 8:00-4:00.

Chief Edo also reported on the September 11th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony that took place at the 911 Memorial located at Station 7. The Chief indicated that it went well. The station looked great. The new Quint 5 was on display and the event was well attended.

Chief Edo reported that they have received preliminary drawings on Engine 1. As soon as the department has a more complete rendering, it will be presented to the board. Budget numbers must be presented to the City early next year.

8. **New Business:**

Commissioners Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion to amend the Agenda to add "Donation from Schick" to new business. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Edo reported that on September 4, 2015, the department went to Schick to work with their three shifts for fire extinguishing training. The City received a thank you check in the amount of \$1,000, which was then turned over to the Milford Fire Department.

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

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

10. **New Equipment:**

None.

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

Commissioner Stein noted that he recently monitored a “days” worth of MFD radio activity. He commented that he was shocked over the number of EMS calls that the department is running a day and was more surprised by the amount of multiple or simultaneous EMS calls that are occurring at the same time. He noted at one particular time, there were 4 or 5 EMS calls all running at the same time, one of which was a 4 car MVA. He thought it would be beneficial for other Commissioners to listen in occasionally. Seeing the statistics on paper or in reports does not drive home the point about how busy the department really is.

12. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:25 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein.