

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners Conference Room at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Call to Order: Chairman Riso called the meeting to order at 1902 hours. A quorum was present.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners Thomas Riso, Kevin McGrath, Richard Smith, Joseph Weber, Howard Stein, and William A. Brennan. Also present were Chief Douglas Edo and Assistant Chief Gary Baker.

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

None.

3. Consideration of Minutes:
Regular Meeting – July 15, 2014

Commissioners McGrath and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the July 15, 2014, Regular Meeting, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Communications:

- a. Letter from the Department of Fire Services in Westport thanking the Milford Fire Department for the canteen response to the fire on Imperial Avenue in Westport.
- b. Thank-you letter from the Potato and Corn Festival of North Branford, thanking the Department for the donation of two light towers.
- c. Thank-you letter from James E. Stacey thanking the Department for their assistance and quick response to his parents' home recently.

5. Committee Reports

East Side Fire Station

Commissioner Brennan reported the City of Milford has engaged a specialist and all remaining issues are in the hands of corporation counsel for disposition. The building continues to lack a Certificate of Occupancy.

Chairman Riso noted the heating system has been investigated and said a report is forthcoming; Commissioner Brennan confirmed this. The Chairman added this issue is in the Board's interest as the Department is paying the bills for the building.

Commissioner Brennan said there has been some discussion regarding converting the HVAC system from electric to gas, but nothing can be completed until there is a disposition on the overall design.

6. Chief's Report

Chief Edo reported the Department received a jet ski and they are currently looking for trainers for jet ski rescues. The jet ski was obtained from East Haven.

The Chief informed the Commissioners three recruits have been hired by the Department; in the time at the Academy, one of the recruits had to resign. Chief Edo said the vacancy will be filled in February or March.

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Chief Edo explained there were 71 applicants for the dispatcher test, 18 of which were able to be sent to the next step in testing, and 10 passed. The Department will make a list of the top 5. Commissioner McGrath asked how many openings there are for dispatchers; the Chief said there is 1.

The Chief reported the Oyster Fest went well. It was very crowded this year. He noted he worked closely with the Oyster Fest Committee. He said the issue from a safety standpoint is the number of people going to see the main act in the fenced in area, there weren't enough points of exit if an emergency were to arise. He added he continues to work with the Committee for an evaluation of the area for future festivals.

Assistant Chief Baker noted there were 12,000 to 16,000 people in the area with only safe exiting for about 4000.

Commissioner Weber asked how many medical calls there were during the concert. Chief Edo said there were 5 during the concert.

Chief Edo explained negotiations are ongoing regarding pricing for services with CMED. He said he will report to the Commissioners on any developments.

Commissioner Stein asked if this was the first full-time hire of a dispatcher since the change in the PSAP Center; Chief Edo said it is. Commissioner Stein inquired if any of the criteria for hiring has changed as a result of the change in the PSAP Center location. The Chief said he has discussed this with the HR director; it had been concluded that those candidates who have experience working with both Fire and Police would be the best. The Commissioners discussed the implications of the background checks for potential dispatchers. Commissioner McGrath inquired if it is ultimately the Commissioners' decision on who receives the position; Chief Edo said it is as it is the Department's budgetary obligation.

Chairman Riso inquired after the factory fire in Bridgeport recently. Chief Edo explained initially the Department was called in to cover Stratford while Stratford assisted Bridgeport; eventually a Milford engine went to the scene of the fire in Bridgeport to assist upon request. The Chief said consequently there are exposure forms being filled out by members of the Department called to the scene.

7. New Business

None.

8. Unfinished Business:

Entry Level Testing discussions update

Chairman Riso noted that as the Board did not have an August meeting, the Committee has not had a chance to meet either. Commissioner McGrath expects to meet within the next 30 days. Commissioner Stein said the next text will be in April, May, or June of 2015.

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9. Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:

Commissioner Stein informed the Commissioners he has moved from his home and is now living in a rental property on Field Court in Milford while his family looks for a new home.

10. Adjournment

*Commissioners Smith and Stein made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 1923 hours.
Motion carried unanimously.*

Recorded by C. Birney