

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners' Conference Room
at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, September 20, 2016**

1. **Call to Order**: Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:15 hours. A quorum was present.

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

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

None.

3. **Consideration of Minutes**:

Regular Meeting – June 21, 2016

Commissioners Stanford and Riso made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the June 21, 2016, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications**:

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

- a. A \$25 donation to Milford Fire Department was received from P. Linda Berkman. of milford.
- b. Letter to the Board from Battalion Chief Wetmore regarding the James Mattioli 5K Road Race. Chairman McGrath noted that this would be addressed under New Business.
- c. Thank you letter from Vincent Averaimo for the department's response to incident at his law office at 250 Broad St., on August 9th.
- d. Thank you letter from Martin Pressman for the department's response to an emergency at the Connecticut Foot Surgery Center on July 7th.
- e. Thank you letter from Linda Stephenson to Chairman McGrath thanking the department for assisting her after she became ill while working as a volunteer at the Oyster Festival.

Commissioner Stein and Riso made and seconded a motion to deposit the \$25.00 donation to the Good and Welfare Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Chairman's Report:

Chairman McGrath discussed with the commissioners why the August meeting (which was subject to cancelation) was cancelled. The Chairman indicated that there was no substantive issues pressing for the Board in August. He further indicated that he had several meetings with the Chiefs and City Hall over the summer regarding various short term and long term issues. Some of these matters will be addressed by Chief Edo in his report to the board.

6. Committees' Reports:

- a. Personnel Committee - Commissioner Stein had nothing to report.
- b. Maintenance & Equipment Committee - Commissioner Brennan had nothing to report.

7. Chief's Report:

DPH Hearing: It's now approximately 90 days since the 3rd appeal. We should hear something in the next few days. However, the Chief will continue to follow up with Attorney Slossberg. Chairman McGrath gave a brief history of the litigation to Commissioner Stanford who joined the commission earlier this year.

Recruits: The Chief reported that all the recruits are doing very well. He indicated that 4 of the 5 are squad leaders. Academy instructors noted to the department that the recruits are in great shape. The Chief indicated that the Academy was considering publishing conditioning guidelines for future recruits. The Chief offered to take a trip up to the Academy if any Commissioner was interested.

E1 Replacement: The build is on-going. There has been a delay in the build because of the recent flooding in Louisiana. The manufacturers plant received some storm flooding from Storm Hermine. While the building was shut down for only 1 manufacturing day, about 50% of the employees of the manufacturer suffered personal flooding losses which caused them to be out of work. The department now expects to receive the Engine sometime after the new year. The Chief informed the Commissioners that the department asked if the chassis or frame was exposed to water. The Chief indicated that the manufacturer indicated that it was not. The Chief explained that there would be documentation to confirm that in our file. Asst. Chief Begley further indicated that the Engine was purchased with a frame protection warranty.

Ambulance Update: The Chief indicated that we currently are running 2 full time ambulances. The department has a 3rd as a spare but it is currently down and being repaired. It is not in the best shape and its long term viability is questionable. The department needs a new ambulance. The City has allocated \$210,000 to purchase another one. Used, demo or remount. \$210,000 is not likely to cover any of these options. Additional funding will be required. The department is considering the remount as the best option as of right now. The department needs an ambulance as soon as possible. The company that recently rebuilt our last ambulance provided a loaner ambulance through the process. They indicated to the department that they would once again loan us an ambulance while the remount was underway. The Chairman

indicated that he has had a series of meetings with the City regarding the department's need especially in light of the forth coming DPH ruling. If the funding is approved by the Commission, the Chief will assign someone to investigate the best option for the department to pursue.

Headquarter's Improvements: The Chief noted that the improvements that were desperately needed to headquarters are underway and not yet completed. The kitchen has been remodeled. The outside of the building has been painted. There is a new apron ramp that is 8 inches of concrete reinforced with rebar. This work was performed by the City Public Works and Edo Construction. The Chief indicated that Chris Saley, the City DPW and Edo Construction were all very responsive to the department. Commissioner Riso asked where the Tower was housed during the construction? The Chief indicated that it was at Station 7. Public works removed a wall at the Northside station to accommodate the Tower. The Chief reiterated how great public works is to the department.

Contract Negotiations: Chief reported that a formal meeting was held with the Union and that all is going well. He indicated to the Board that the next meeting is schedule in a month.

Fireworks/Oyster Fest: Chief Edo reported that all went off without a hitch. The department conducted an after action meeting with department personnel. Thereafter, the suggestions and recommendations that came from that after action meeting was conveyed to festival committee members for future festivals.

Storm Prep (Hermine): The City was extremely prepared. Department heads and the Mayor were meeting in preparation for the storm. Reports 24 hours before the storm indicated that Milford would be hit hard by the coming storm. Everything was canceled in preparation. The storm took a sudden change in path. The City got lucky. However, the Chief felt that it was a good drill for all department heads.

Chief Edo indicated that there was a 911 ceremony at the YMCA. Chairman McGrath read the names while the Chief rang the bell. The Chief indicated that it was well attended. Finally, the Chief indicated that there will be a Milford Hall of Fame inductee Ceremony at the Parsons complex on Wednesday night (9/21). The Chief will be giving a short presentation on the induction of Frank Stevens. First Chief of the Milford Fire Department.

8. New Business:

A) Medic Truck Bid

The Chairman reiterated that the City has allocated \$210,000 as a preliminary amount to acquire a new ambulance for the department. The Chairman emphasized that time is of the essence. Chairman McGrath indicated that \$210,000 will not likely cover all of the cost associated with the purchase. Equipment and other items will likely bring the number closer to \$250,000. Additional funding or sources will be necessary. Additionally, all cost saving options will be explored in terms of acquisition vendors. The department will compare used, demos as well as the remount option. Commissioner Stein asked if the department has a preference as of

this point? The Chief indicated that the remount with a loaner would meet the department's immediate needs but that a demo would be good too.

Commissioners Stein and Brennan made and seconded a motion to permit the Chief of the Department to allocate the \$210,000 approved by the City to investigate and purchase a remounted or demo ambulance not to exceed a total price of \$250,000 and subject to acquisition of any additional funds necessary to conclude the purchase beyond the \$210,000 already approved by the City. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Stein and Riso made and seconded a motion to amend the agenda to add the Fire Department's Request to host the James Mattioli 5K Road Race to New Business. Motion carried unanimously.

B) James Mattioli 5K Road Race

The Board has received a letter from Battalion Chief Wetmore requesting permission to host the James Mattioli 5K Road Race on March 25, 2017.

Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a motion to permit the Fire Department's to host the James Mattioli 5K Road Race on March 25, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Unfinished Business:

None

10. New Equipment:

None.

11. Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:

Commissioner Riso inquired whether the heating problem in the new Eastside fire station was fixed. Commissioner Brennan indicated that it is still not fixed and it is being worked on. Commissioner Riso thought it was ludicrous that we are entering another heating season and this matter is still not resolved. The Chairman indicated that he will talk to the Chief and report back to the Board.

Commissioner Brennan requested for the future that monthly reports received by the Commissioners be prepared and delivered to Commissioners even though a monthly meeting is canceled or subject to cancellation.

Commissioner Weber indicated that the rolling stock equipment report recently completed by Asst. Chief Begley was excellent. That the Asst. Chief did a good job. That he is full of vast institutional knowledge and is an asset to the department.

Commissioner Riso asked about the current status of the department garage. Chief Edo indicated that we are still down 1 man. That the Asst. Superintendent test is Thursday (9/22). There are 8 or 9 applicants scheduled to take the test.

12. Adjournment:

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:50 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein.