

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioner's Conference Room
At Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, October 15, 2019**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:16 hours. A quorum was present.

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

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

Milford FF Jason Stacoffe addressed the Board regarding the annual Toys for Tots fundraiser. He indicated that it's that time of year again and the MPFA Local 944 would like to begin their annual fundraising. He was present tonight to ask for the Boards' approval. He told the Board that setup and preparation will be conducted on December 18 – 20 with the giveaway occurring on December 21st. He invited all of the Commissioners to stop down to see the hard work put in by local 944 members to make this annual event such a success.

Chairman McGrath thanked FF Stacoffe and the union for all their efforts and indicated that the Board will address this matter later in the meeting.

3. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – September 17, 2019

Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the September 17, 2019 Regular Meeting as presented.

Commissioner Weber indicated that he had some concerns regarding the comments attributed to him in Item 8, New Business, Union Grievances 19-002, 19-003, 19-004, 19-005, 19-006, 19-007. He indicated to the Chairman that he thinks that he may not have made his comments and concerns clear following the Motion made by Commissioners Stein and Riso as it is reflected in the minutes. Chairman McGrath asked what specific language he would like to see changed in the minutes. Commissioner Weber indicated that he didn't need to have specific language changed to the minutes but wanted to make a specific point.

Commissioner Stein suggested that since Commissioner Weber didn't want to change any specific language, perhaps he could provide additional clarification under Item 11 – Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners of tonight's meeting. Commissioner Weber agreed and, thereafter, Chairman McGrath asked for a vote on the Motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications:**

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

- i. A letter from the Milford Professional Firefighters Association Local 944 requesting permission from the Board to engage in their annual Toys for Tots Holiday Toy Drive.

Commissioners Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion to add the local's request to conduct its annual Toys for Tots Holiday Toy Drive to the Agenda under New Business.
Motion carried unanimously.

- ii. Thank you letter from Mrs. Ann Danenberg together with pictures of her pets which interacted with Milford Firefighters during a recent call for service to her home.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath congratulated the crews of Medic 2 and Quint 3 who delivered a baby this morning. In addition, he noted that he too had recently become a grandfather. All Commissioners offered their congratulations and best wishes to Chairman McGrath.

Chairman McGrath also congratulated recently promoted Battalion Chief Nick Holinko and wished him well in his new position.

6. **Committees Reports:**

a) Personnel Committee: Commissioner Stein noted that the Personnel Sub-Committee consisting of himself, Chairman McGrath and Commissioner Riso met three times since the last meeting for the purpose of replacing now retired Asst. Chief Gary Baker. He indicated that the current process of appointing an Asst. Chief to replace now retired Assistant Chief Gary Baker is new having recently been established in the new Collective Bargaining Agreement which charged the Personnel Sub-Committee together with the Chief and Assistant Chiefs with the responsibility of conducting the selection process of an Assistant Chief and making a recommendation to the full Board. Since this was a new process, the members met to discuss the procedures and processes that would be followed by sub-committee members. Thereafter, interviews were conducted by the sub-committee of the 2 applicants for the position of Assistant Chief. The sub-committee interviewed Battalion Chiefs Anthony Fabrizi and Dan Wassmer. Commissioner Stein noted that each interview ran between 30 and 45 minutes and each candidate did an outstanding job. Following the interviews, the sub-committee took several days for the members to consider the interviews and qualifications of each candidate. The sub-committee met again to finalize discussions and to select a candidate to recommend to the full board. Commissioner Stein indicated that "at this time following our process, it is the unanimous recommendation of the Personnel Sub-Committee that the Board of Fire Commissioners appoint Anthony Fabrizi to the position of Assistant Chief of the Milford Fire Department."

Commissioners Stein and Brennan made and seconded a motion to appoint Anthony Fabrizi as Assistant Chief of the Milford Fire Department. Motion carried unanimously.

b) Maintenance & Equipment Committee: Commissioner Brennan reported that he has had a preliminary meeting with Assistant Chief Begley regarding putting together a report covering all repairs and replacement needs for department apparatus for a future meeting before the Commission. Chairman McGrath thanked Commissioner Brennan and Asst. Chief Begley for their work. He believes this report is important to address future department needs. Commissioner Stein noted that he liked the revised report that Asst. Chief Begley submitted this month. He noted that the report gave a comprehensive statement and status of each primary piece of department apparatus. He thought it was quite helpful to see the status of all equipment on a monthly basis.

Commissioner Stein then requested from the Chairman a moment to return to the Personnel Sub-Committee Report. He indicated that he neglected to inform the Commissioners that Battalion Chief Fabrizi will be formally sworn in as Assistant Chief on Friday, October 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. As a result of this promotion, a number of other promotions will occur in the Battalion Chief, Captain and Lieutenant ranks. All these promotions will occur in the same Promotion Ceremony on Friday. Commissioner Stein indicated that all Commissioners were invited to attend.

Chairman McGrath added that people will be gathering at 6:00 pm and the ceremony will begin at 6:30 pm at City Hall.

7. Chief's Report:

Budget Package – The Chief reported that its budget season again and the department will be picking up its budget package tomorrow.

Recruits – The 2 new recruits are doing well. Both are squad leaders. One recruit broke her finger during a training session. She had it casted but was able to continue with her training at the academy.

Burn Trailer – The New Haven County Burn Trailer has been present at the Seaman's Lane facility and the shifts have been taking turns cycling through the 3 phases of training associated with the Burn Trailer. All training has been completed.

AC promotion process – The Chief noted that it was the first time that the department has gone through this process. He indicated that he found it similar to the Fire Inspector's process. It was tough having 2 tremendous candidates, but he thinks it's a great process and he wanted to thank the Union for the changes worked out in the current CBA.

8. **New Business:**

- a) (ADDED TO THE AGENDA) – Toys for Tots Annual Holiday Toy Drive.

Commissioners Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion to the permit the Milford Professional Firefighter Association Local 944's request to conduct its annual Toys for Tots Holiday Toy Drive. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman McGrath wished the Union well.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

10. **New Equipment:** Chairman McGrath asked Asst. Chief Begley to comment on the status of the new car 4. Asst. Chief Begley noted that the new Car 4 was going to be built at a Ford plant sometime next week. It would be delivered to the department in about a month and thereafter sent out to additional vendors for a Cap and electronics. Asst. Chief Begley thought that the new Car 4 would be in service by Christmas time. Chief Edo noted that the vehicle was going to be classified by Ford as a 2019 model and this would be a cost savings to the department.

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

Commissioner Stein asked Commissioner Weber for his comments pertaining to his desire to clarify his comments pertaining to the September 17th minutes. Thereafter, Commissioner Weber commented that the point he was trying to make was that “when the Chief gives a direct order to any member of the department, he expects that it will be followed to conclusion and he feels that the department personnel instructed by the Chief to have the members get their paperwork in to the department for the purpose of collecting their educational stipends pursuant to the CBA should have followed up with those members who didn't get their paperwork into the department and therefore didn't get their stipend.”

12. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:35. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein