

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting**  
**Commissioner's Conference Room**  
**At Fire Headquarters**  
**72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT**  
**Tuesday, October 16, 2018**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:20 hours. A quorum was present.

**Roll Call:** In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Stein, Brennan, Riso, Stanford and Weber were present. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo and Assistant Chiefs Gary Baker and Bernie Begley. Commissioner Smith was not present.

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

Firefighter Jason Stacoffe of the Milford Professional Firefighters Local 944, gave a brief history and presented a letter requesting permission to conduct a solicitation for funds within the area for the annual "Toys for Tots" holiday toy drive for the children and families of Milford. The event will kick off on 11/21/18 and will held at the Margaret Egan Center beginning on 12/19/18-12/22/18 for this 3-day event. All Commissioners are welcome to come down.

*Commissioners Stein and Riso made and seconded a motion to allow the Local 944 to conduct their annual "Toys for Tots" holiday toy drive and fund solicitation. Motion carried unanimously.*

3. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Commissioner McGrath indicated that there was not a scheduled meeting in August and that the September meeting was cancelled because a quorum was not available. He asked that the July 17, 2018 minutes be reviewed by the Board for consideration.

Regular Meeting – July 17, 2018

*Commissioners Brennan and Riso made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the July 17, 2018, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

4. **Communications:**

Commissioner McGrath reported that the department received the following communications:

A. A thank you card from Sue Simmat to the Milford Fire Department for an incident that occurred on 9/23/18. She wanted to thank the department for their quick response and amazing professionalism at a very stressful time. She sent brownies to the department as a token of her appreciation.

B. A thank you card from the Mullins family to the department for always being there when we need you the most.

C. An email from Jim Wilkinson to Ron Wetmore expressing his thanks for the department's attendance at Jeanne Dubois' memorial service.

D. An email from Mike Racz to Chief Edo thanking him and members of the department for inviting his Dad to the firehouse for dinner and how it was one of the best evenings his father has had in a long time.

E. A telephone call from Joyce Faltman to the department expressing her praise of Firefighter Matt Ramos for his skill, dedication and calmness for an incident that occurred at The Hebrew Synagogue on 9/19/18.

F. A facebook posting received from Kelly Bel to the Milford Fire Department wanting to say thank you for the emergent 911 call they placed for their infant son. She further expressed how lucky we are to have such dedicated and compassionate firefighters in our City.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath hoped everyone had a great summer and welcomed everyone back.

Chairman McGrath wanted to thank the Union for agreeing to an extension of time to allow the Board to consider the Grievances which are on this evening's Agenda.

Chairman McGrath congratulated Captain Greg Carman on his recent retirement and wished him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

Chairman McGrath thanked Lou D'Amato for allowing the department to use one of his buildings this past July for training.

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:**

Make A Wish: Chief Edo on behalf of the department donated some old equipment to be incorporated into a Treehouse Firehouse by a local company called, Flexecution, which was fulfilling the wish of a sick child participating in the Make A Wish foundation.

Engine 6: Chief Begley discussed that the finishing touches are being done and that the final inspection will be later next week. The Engine should be here by November and that it is ahead of schedule.

Medic Unit: New medic unit is also nearly complete and is due to be received in November.

Budget Package: The meeting was postponed and the Chief will report back next month.

Recruit Visit: Chief Edo and BC Wassmer both went up to the Academy. The recruits are doing well. One recruit is the platoon leader and the other a squad leader. The Chief reported that he has once again received praise from the Instructors at the Academy regarding the quality of the Milford Cadets. The Chief noted that a number of the other Cadets at the Academy were in generally poor physical condition. BC Wassmer joined the recruits in one of their physical training sessions.

Burn Trailer: Chief Edo stated that this Thursday is the last day for the burn trailer training being done at the Seamans Lane facility. This is done one time per year. He invited the Commissioners to come down and see it.

Chairman McGrath asked for the date of the Academy's graduation. Chief Edo responded 12/7/18.

8. **New Business:**

**Grievances**

Chairman McGrath again thanked the Union for the extension to hear the grievances.

Union President Firefighter Jeff Luciano presented on behalf of Local 944 and presented each Grievance individually to the Board, providing documentation to the Board in support of the Union's position on all referenced grievances.

a) Grievance 18-006, 18-007, 18-009 and 18-009;

Chief Edo and Assistant Chief Baker responded to the Union's position on behalf of the Department.

Following the presentation of the above-referenced grievances

Commissioners Stein and Riso made and seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for purposes of Discussion said Grievances. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Commissioner Stein requested on behalf of the Board that Union President Luciano and the Chiefs remain available in the event that further testimony or opinion were required by the Board.

Thereinafter, the Board went into Executive Session at 20:12.

Chief Edo was invited into Executive Session at 20:40.

The Chief exited Executive Session at 21:10.

Commissioners Stein and Riso made and seconded a motion to come out of Executive Session for purposes of Discussion said Grievances. Motion Carried Unanimously.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 21:15.

Commissioner Stein noted for the record that no votes were taken by the Board while in Executive Session.

Commissioners Stein and Stanford made and seconded a motion to Deny Union Grievances 18-008 and 18-009. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Stein and Stanford made and seconded a motion to table Grievances 18-006 and 18-007 until a special meeting to be held on October 30, 2018. Motion carried unanimously

b) Lease Equipment: The Chairman and Chief informed the Board that The Board of Aldermen recently amended a previously approved Resolution regarding Requests for Proposals for the Lease/Purchase of Certain Department of Public Works Equipment/Vehicles originally dated July 7, 2015. The recently amended resolution now permits the Fire Department to seek competitive bids through the Request for Proposal process for the purpose of obtaining upgrades, repairs and/ or replacing equipment / vehicles.

Commissioners Stein and Riso made and seconded a motion to permit the Chief of the Department or his designee to solicit RFPs as needed based upon this Aldermanic Resolution. Motion Carried Unanimously.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

10. **New Equipment:**

None.

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

None.

12. **Adjournment:**

*Commissioners Riso and Weber made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 21:40 hours.  
Motion carried unanimously.*

Recorded by Diane Stein