

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioner's Conference Room
at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, October 18, 2016**

1. **Call to Order**: Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.
A quorum was present.

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

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

Phil Onofrio, Vice-President of Operations at Nelson Ambulance/Access Ambulance appeared before the Board. He stated that their company was honored to be selected as the BLS assistance company for the Milford Fire Department. He stated that it has been a smooth transition with the department and that the feedback has been very positive. He emphasized the priorities of his company are to provide great patient care and response times. They are very excited to support the Milford Fire Department and the community. Mr. Onofrio thanked the Board for this opportunity.

3. **Consideration of Minutes**:

Regular Meeting - September 20, 2016

Commissioners Smith and Stein made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the September 20, 2016, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications**:

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

a. A thank you card to Chief Edo from the DellaMonica family. The family wanted to thank "the young man from the department" for providing a beautiful rendition of amazing grace at their father's funeral service.

b. A \$1,000 donation to the Milford Fire Department was received from The Church of the Holy Infant, Orange, CT from their Blue Mass on September 29, 2016.

Commissioners Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion to deposit the \$1,000 to the Chief's Discretionary Fund. Motion carried unanimously

c. A request from the Milford Professional Firefighters Association asking permission to conduct a solicitation for funds for the Toys for Tots program within the area.

d. A thank you letter from the Westport Fire Department to Chief Edo expressing their sincere appreciation for Milford's Canteen Truck Response to an incident on I-95 involving a tanker truck incident which took over ten hours to contain.

e. A thank you letter from John Conte, Jr. for the rescue performed by the Milford Firefighters working on the Milford Fireboat on August 13, 2016. If not for this rescue by these professionals, his boat would have sank and possibly have casualties. He would like these professionals to be considered for Life Saving Awards. He further commended the Mayor, Fire Chief & Fire Commissioners for their outstanding fire protection, EMS & all the training provided to the City.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman reported that he has been having ongoing discussion with City Hall regarding the department's growing equipment needs. He also wanted to express his thanks to the Department's administration and everyone involved in the process to secure the BLS License from the State Department of Public Health. He noted that a lot of time and hard work was expended by many people and he personally wanted to thank them for their hard work. Additionally, the Chairman thanked Mr. Onofrio from Nelson Ambulance for helping make the transition so smooth.

Commissioner Smith asked about the status of AMR as he still sees their vehicles in town? Chairman McGrath indicated that the Chief sent a letter to AMR informing them that their services would no longer be required after midnight October 17, 2016 in accordance with the DPH's ruling. The Chairman further stated that AMR owns property within the town so they would still have presence in the City. Commissioner Stein indicated that AMR still provides transport service for area nursing home and other entities that require medical transport services.

Commissioner Brennan indicated to the Board that Attorney Slossberg did a "great job" in the services he provided to the City in securing the BLS license.

The Chairman indicated that he wanted to point out to the Board that portion of BC Fabrizi's report where he mentions that "the five new recruit firefighters are doing well at the CT State Fire Academy." Four have been chosen as squad leader. A training coordinator from the academy complimented Milford's ability to consistently select exceptional recruits." Chairman McGrath indicated that Chief Edo would talk more about this in his report but that the department should be very proud.

6. **Committees Reports:**

- a. Personnel Committee - Commissioner Stein had nothing to report.

Commissioner Stanford asked Commissioner Stein if the Commission is part of the current collective bargaining process with Local 944? Commissioner Stein indicated that the Commission does not have a member attending negotiations. The professional management staff of the department and the City Attorney's Office have been involved in collective bargaining negotiations. Chairman McGrath added that the Personnel Sub-Committee members have been involved in discussions with the professional management staff of the department for some time, identifying issues to be address in discussion with the Local. Other issues such as financial considerations and benefits are negotiated directly with the City's representatives.

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

7. **Chief's Report:**

DPH Hearing: Chief Edo indicated that the department took over transport responsibilities at midnight Sunday. As already mentioned, everything has gone smooth. The Chief wanted to recognize the efforts of Captain Waiksnoris. He told the Board that Capt. Waiksnoris did a "really great job pulling it all together." The Chief also indicated that Chief Wassmer, Attorney Slossberg and Attorney Kelly from the City Attorney's Office were all instrumental in getting the department to this point. The Chief indicated that he sent a letter to AMR thanking them for their submission to the RFQ. Chief Edo also noted that the department will still be partnering with AMR in mutual aid situations.

Recruits: The Chief reported that all the recruits are doing very well. He indicated that he has received their first report card and although being reported as average, this is common with early reports to allow for continued motivation and growth.

Ambulance Update: The Chief stated that the Remount Bid went out. It is the same as the bid that went out last year for the current Medic 1. The Demo Bid is going to go out this week. The department is still examining the language because part of the funding is coming from a grant for a fire department rescue truck and the bid must conform its language to specific grant requirements.

Contract Negotiations: The Chief reported that negotiations are on-going. The 2nd on the record meeting was held this past Friday. The 3rd on the record meeting will be held this Friday. Seems to be going really well. The Chief believes that 80% - 85% of the contract is wrapped up.

Storm Prep (Matthew): The City was prepared, however thankfully, the storm stayed in the Carolinas.

EMD meeting: Chief Edo informed the Board that as EMD Director, he regularly meets quarterly with other City Department Heads to discuss and coordinate emergency responses in the event there was a major city/state emergency or storm. The Chief informed the Board that those meeting have been changed to twice a year now. He further indicated that there will be a statewide drill on November 2.

Finally, the Chief reported that the department picked up its budget packet today from City Hall. The Chief stated that the Mayor has requested a “flat budget” from the department.

8. **New Business:**

Commissioners Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion to amend the Agenda to add the request from the Milford Professional Firefighters Association to conduct their annual Toys for Tot fund raising campaign to new business. Motion carried unanimously.

a. **Toys for Tots Fund Raising Request**

Commissioners Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion to allow the Milford Professional Firefighters Association to solicit funds for the Toys for Tots program. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

10. **New Equipment:**

Assistant Chief Begley reported that the cab has been built for the new engine. Its scheduled to go into pre-paint in December and then onto the assembly line. It is expected to be completed by the end of January, 2017.

Chairman McGrath requested a general status update on our current medic units. Chief Begley reported that Medic 1 is now our newest recently received re-mounted unit. This unit has now been in service for 5 months. Medic 2 is now the 2011 International with the larger patient box. It recently had a “power lift” stretcher installed and will require some preventative maintenance work in the near future. Medic 3 is now strictly a back-up unit that will be stored at the garage facility. It will undergo preventative maintenance when it is not in service but will be capable of running as a spare ambulance when required. Chairman McGrath indicated that the department is trying to get another ambulance in the “hopper.” It’s expected that the current medic units will see much more use with the department acquiring the BLS license. Commissioner Brennan asked if the re-mount bid that is currently out contemplated using the “box” from Medic 3? The Chief indicated it did not. Medic 3 is strictly a spare back-up unit at this time. There is a “sister” box available from the company that provided the last box to the department that is now part of the remount on the new Medic 1.

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

None.

12. **Adjournment:**

*Commissioners Smith and Stanford made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:39 pm.
Motion carried unanimously.*

Recorded by Diane Stein.