

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting**  
**72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT**  
**Tuesday, October 18, 2022**

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 18:35 hours. A quorum was present.

**Roll Call:** In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Stein, Riso, R. Smith, Brennan, P. Smith and Soda were present. Also present was Chief Edo, Assistant Chief Fabrizi, and Assistant Chief Waiksnoris

**Absent:** None

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

None

- III. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Corrected Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2022

Regular Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2022

Commissioner P. Smith stated on the Chairman's report Chairman McGrath wished the board and members a Happy Labor Day Holiday and Alderman Liaison Parente was identified as a commissioner.

Commissioners Riso and R. Smith made and second a motion to accept the corrected minutes of August 16, 2022, and the minutes of September 20, 2022, after the correction of the Chairmans report. Motions carried unanimously.

- IV. **Communications:**

Commissioner R. Smith stated there were two correspondences:

1. A thank you card from Precious Blood Parish to all Fire Department employees who helped with the first annual Touch A Truck event. Chairman McGrath noted he received a personal call from event coordinators extending their personal wishes of thanks. He stated the event was a success with 18,000 -19,000 in attendance.
2. A thank you card from Joan & Donny Allan regarding the help with Donny, noting Joan's thanks to all Firefighters, the Chief and dispatchers.

V. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath stated after confirmation an invitation will be sent to all the Commissioners regarding a swearing in ceremony. Assistant Chief Fabrizi believes the date is November 9 but will confirm. The goal is to have a swearing in for all new members and staff that have been promoted at city hall. The intention is to have an awards ceremony in spring honoring members. Chairman McGrath also thanked the administration for the reports that have been coming through and will be encouraging the degree of information that is being reported.

VI. **Committees Report:**

- a) Personnel Committee: none
- b) Maintenance & Equipment: Commissioner Brennan stated parts for the Tower will arrive in two weeks.
- c) Safety Committee Liaison: Commissioner Brennan stated a few items were discussed the most concerning being storage in the cabs. This is being worked on. He further noted that most of the items were not safety related.

Chairman McGrath thanked all the chiefs for keeping everything afloat with the crazy past few weeks with equipment. He then asked Chief Fabrizi to give an update on equipment. Chief Fabrizi stated in his report regarding apparatus, a lot of dynamics have happened. Summarizing, all preventative maintenance, DOT inspection, pump testing and ground ladder testing has been done. The entire front-line fleet is up to date, except for Tower 1. Tower 1 is currently out of service; inspections will be addressed before it is returned to the department. There will be stragglers with ground ladder and ariel maintenance categories that he will be following up with when the tower is returned. Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated Hazmat 1 is the only other unit out of service due to leakage in the transmission cooler, it is currently being tested to determine the proper course of repair. Chairman McGrath asked Assistant Chief Fabrizi for clarification on the process of how the department deals with repair. Assistant Chief Fabrizi informed the board when an apparatus is in need of repair or any issue that arises in the department, a member can go on Fire Manager; a software system the Fire Department has. The three chiefs then get a notification, after determining the extent of the problem, a service provider is contacted. The firefighter can then go in the system and review the card from beginning to completion. He also updates officers with a list of repairs to share at rollcall. Chairman McGrath questioned Commissioner Brennan if the process was understood within the safety committee. Commissioner Brennan then stated he feels some items that are brought up are not necessarily a safety issues, he noted the first item was a proposal for a full-time mechanic, which is not a safety item. He also stated it does not state in the NFPA that a certified mechanic is required. Commissioner Brennan also mentioned the headlight brightness, as all apparatus currently fall in the realm of being safe. Items that are pertinent to safety are the headsets and helmet request, Assistant Chief Fabrizi confirmed helmets have been received and an SOP is currently in the approval process. Commissioner Brennan noted the request for roofs and the budget deficit, he also mentioned the request for steel toed station boots, which are not worn

at fires. Chief Edo spoke on the mold that may be an issue and why roofs are needed, they are and have been requested for capital improvements. He also stated that all four shifts do driver checks and document what needs repair. Chairman McGrath noted that the system is working, although it may not be perfect.

**VII. Chief's Report:**

Recruits first evaluation period – Chief Edo stated the recruits first report cards have been received and once again Milford is in or near the top of their class. There is one squad leader and two individuals who work after hours doing evolutions or assisting with others. Commissioner P. Smith questioned when the class is complete, Chief Edo stated December 13 with the hope of being on shift by Christmas.

**VIII. New Business:** EMS Collections Summary: Chairman McGrath asked if the Commissioners had any questions or concerns regarding the summary. Chief Edo began by saying the basic snapshot was put together to let the commission get the idea of what revenue is being collected and used for. He further continued to state the progression in collections referencing the significant costs of equipment. Chairman McGrath noted the increase in medical supplies. Commissioner P. Smith asked if the department bills medicines used to offset the cost. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris explained it is one bill which the state provides the rate. The department can bill for BLS, ALS1, ALS2, and mileage. Commissioner Brennan questioned if the department charges private ambulance services, Assistant Chief Waiksnoris stated they have their own billing, the only way we collect from them is if a department paramedic rides in with a patient. Chief Edo stated the department can charge for a medical assessment. Commissioner Brennan commented on Medicare's payment process. Commissioner P. Smith questioned Nelson Ambulance billing process and motor vehicle accident insurance which could increase revenue. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris confirmed that the city-wide agreement is to soft bill all patients, he stated there was no way to get the auto insurance information at the scene. Chief Edo noted possibly after the fact that information could be obtained. Chairman McGrath suggested investigating the out of town/state billing procedure. Commissioner Brennan stated historically the collection rate in Connecticut is between 80 and 85 percent. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris agreed. Commissioner P. Smith questioned the rate of soft collections. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris stated he would get that information. Commissioner McGrath stated 67 percent of calls are ALS versus 37 BLS. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris confirmed city wide there are more Advanced Life Support calls, more calls in general have been coming in all over the state. Approximately 9-10,000 calls have been done already this year about 700 more than the previous year. Commissioner P. Smith questioned if paramedics should be provided with more compensation as clearly, they have value to the department. All Chiefs spoke in agreement to that statement. Chairman McGrath noted the loss of 8 paramedics in the department. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris noted the loss all over the country. Commissioner Stein specified that it is a collective bargaining issue, which would not allow for any unilateral deviation. Commissioner Brennan stated if the PSA is lost revenue would diminish immensely. He also noted the stress on engines when they are being sent to a call as a paramedic and the force back of paramedics. Commissioner P. Smith questioned the ideal paramedic

staffing situation. Chief Edo stated worst case scenario is two on shift, minimum would be four paramedics. He assumes the reason paramedics have been dropping licenses could be due to compensation. Commissioner Brennan and P. Smith agreed. Commissioner P. Smith stated he understands the position on the contract, Commissioner Stein noted it's not a position, it's a practical reality, despite the issues, city hall has a vision in regard to budget and the CBA that is in place. Commissioner P. Smith questioned when the contract ends. Commissioner Stein confirmed 2026. Chairman McGrath indicated the issue is on the radar and the goal is to have a discussion with city hall, as great time and money has been spent to get where we are.

**IX. Unfinished Business:** None

- X. **New Equipment:** Chairman McGrath noted he had asked the chiefs to inquire about getting a demo truck to get it sooner with more information to come in the next thirty days. Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated they did speak to Sutphen the manufacturer of the current Quint 3, as to get a gauge of the climate due to Covid shortages and supply chain issues. The current delivery time is seventeen to nineteen months for delivery of a new vehicle if ordered today. To replace what the department currently has will cost 1.3 million with price increases expected throughout the year. He noted discounts (if paid up front) that are not thoroughly investigated. The goal is to be forward thinking and have a new vehicle ordered by the first quarter of next year. Commissioner Brennan questioned getting a 100' foot ladder truck. Chief Edo stated it would be the same as Quint 3. Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated all demos are sold, as they are selling instantly. The chances of a demo are slim to none. Chief Edo noted all the delayed items due to supply chain issues.

- XI. **Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:** Commissioner P. Smith commented on the quality and standardization of the reports, which are great. Commissioner Brennan asked for a sign on Seemans Lane, Chairman McGrath stated he has been working with Public Works to get one.

**XII. Adjournment:**

Commissioners R. Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:00  
Motion carried unanimously.