

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting**  
**Commissioners Conference Room at Fire Headquarters**  
**72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT**  
**Tuesday, November 15, 2011**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Riso called the meeting to order at 1904 hours. A quorum was present.

**1. Roll Call**

Commissioners Thomas Riso, John Healy, Karen Craig, William Brennan, Richard Smith, and Jonathan Berchem. Also present were Chief Louis A. LaVecchia, Assistant Chief Robert J. Healey, Assistant Chief Al Zingaro, and Union President Paul Geer.

Commissioner Howard Stein was excused.

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

None.

**3. Swearing In:**

None.

**4. Consideration of Minutes:**

**Regular Meeting – October 18, 2011**

*Commissioners Smith and Craig made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the October 18, 2011, regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

**5. Communications:**

- a. Letter from the Milford Professional Firefighters Association informing the Commission of their withdrawal of the FOI complaint dated October 5, 2011.
- b. Letter to Chief LaVecchia from Edward Murphy of the Wildermere Beach Congregational Church located at 133 Broadway in Milford, thanking the Department for their unsolicited aid in pumping out the church's basement during Tropical Storm Irene.
- c. Thank-you letter from Joan Wilderman, thanking the Department for their assistance on the phone regarding her rented house on East Broadway during Tropical Storm Irene.

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Union President Geer inquired if the Commission was in receipt of a letter submitted by the Union. Chairman Riso confirmed receipt and said he would take it under advisement.

**6. Committee Reports**

Apparatus

Assistant Chief Zingaro reported that Engines 4 and 7 are out of service and Engine 2 is getting its engine rebuilt and will be back in service soon. He also stated that Marino 1 will be pulled out of the water in the first week of December. Chief LaVecchia added that the new Quint has been ordered.

East Side Fire Station Building Committee

Commissioner Healy reported that there had been a job site meeting that morning and Commissioner Brennan attended in his stead. Commissioner Brennan stated the concrete for the apparatus bay and the mezzanine would be poured Wednesday. He also stated that the roof trusses are on the site and the Milford Building Department had sent an inspector to certify the welds. He also noted that the back retaining wall designed has been reduced by about 40 percent.

Commissioner Healy noted Commissioner Brennan was at the job site for four hours that day, and Battalion Chief Healey has been fantastic throughout the process.

**7. Chief's Reports**

Chief LaVecchia stated he submitted his report to the Commissioners and is open to any questions. He commented that the live fire training is going well. He also said he was informed by the West Shore Fire Chief Dave Collins that the age discrimination suit is going to trial.

Commissioner Brennan inquired if the Chief had seen the report on the dispatch issue in the newspaper and wanted to hear his thoughts on the matter.

Commissioners Brennan and Smith made and seconded a motion to add the LR Kimball Report to the agenda under New Business. Motion carried unanimously.

**8. Unfinished Business:**

Special Leave (Swap Time)

Assistant Chief Healey informed the Commissioners that he heard from the software company and the technical issue has been resolved. He added that the software company will be contacting the Department regarding training.

Chairman Riso commented that this issue is moving forward.

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**9. New Business:**

2012-2013 Budget

Chief LaVecchia instructed the Commissioners to follow the key on the budget spreadsheet he provided. He stated that included in the spreadsheet he included the budgets from 2008 through 2011/2012, and the requested budget for 2012/2013. The Chief opened the floor to questions.

Commissioner Berchem inquired why there is no requested amount for the Workers Compensation line item; the Chief answered that is an item funded by the City. Commissioner Brennan asked if there had been any major changes; the Chief answered no, but there had been an additional line item added under civil preparedness for emergency sheltering, and an EMS equipment account had been added.

*Commissioners Smith and Healy made and seconded a motion to accept the proposed budget and forward it to the Mayor. Motion carried unanimously.*

LR Kimball Report

Chief LaVecchia explained that in June, the Mayor commissioned the Kimball company to do a study on the 911 dispatch center of Milford. He said this morning he had received an email that the report had been released. The Chief noted that the report's scope is very narrow and it is filled with numerous inaccurate statements. The Chief said he has drafted a letter to the Mayor regarding this report.

Commissioner Brennan commented that he believes the majority of 911 calls coming in are either geared towards the Fire Department or EMS and he is concerned combining the two dispatch centers at the police station would create a lapse in time for treatment. Chairman Riso asked for a copy of the written report and a copy of the Chief's response to the report; Commissioner Brennan suggested placing this item on next month's agenda.

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

Commissioner Brennan suggested having a meeting with the labor negotiator to see where the contract stands. He expressed his concern that the Department doesn't administer random drug and alcohol testing. He said this is a liability to the Department and the City.

Chairman Riso said he could speak to the Milford City Attorney about this issue.

Commissioner Healy indicated he had met with the City Attorney on another issue, who had in turn indicated that the Commissioners could be brought up to speed on contract negotiations. He suggested putting this line item on the agenda.

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Commissioners Healy and Smith made and seconded a motion to return to New Business. Motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

Commissioners Healy and Smith made and seconded a motion to add the letter from the Union regarding an Officer of the Department to the agenda for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Healy and Smith made and seconded a motion to enter executive session to discuss the Union correspondence. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners entered executive session at 1933 hours.  
Chief LaVecchia was invited into executive session at 1953 hours.

Commissioners Smith and Healy made and seconded a motion to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commission returned to open session at 2008 hours.

**11. Adjournment**

Commissioners Smith and Craig made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 2009 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by C. Birney