

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting**  
**Commissioners Conference Room at Fire Headquarters**  
**72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT**  
**Tuesday, November 16, 2010**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Riso called the meeting to order at 1902 hours. A quorum was present.

**1. Roll Call**

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

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

None.

**3. Swearing In:**

None.

**4. Consideration of Minutes:**

Commissioner Craig noted two changes to the minutes: page two, second paragraph, Commissioner Craig should read Commissioner Stein; and page one, roll call, Union Vice President Todd Ricci.

*Commissioners Craig and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the October 19, 2010, regular meeting as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.*

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**5. Grievance # 10-005:**

Union President Paul Geer read a statement to the Commissioners, asking them to support the withdrawal of the current swap time policy so that an agreement can be worked out.

Discussion was held by all members present regarding the implementation of the new policy.

The Commissioners decided to hold the implementation of the new policy and the furtherance of the grievance in abeyance until a mutually agreeable policy can be worked out, to be further discussed at the next meeting on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**6. Communications:**

- a.** Letter from Jason Hall of Toys for Tots, asking permission for the solicitation of funds for the program.

*Commissioners Craig and Smith made and seconded a motion to grant permission to the Milford Professional Firefighters Association for solicitation for funds for the Toys for Tots Program. Motion carried unanimously.*

- b.** Thank-you letter from Joan Colemeyer, thanking firefighters for the response to her home; including a \$100 check.

*Commissioners Smith and Bercham made and seconded a motion to accept the check and move the funds to the Good & Welfare fund. Motion carried unanimously.*

- c.** Thank-you letter from Albert and Gloria Shapiro, thanking firefighters for helping their son; including a \$25 check.

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Commissioners Smith and Bercham made and seconded a motion to accept the check and move the funds to the Good & Welfare fund. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Thank-you note from Harriet Rotz, thanking the firefighters for their quick response.
- e. Thank-you letter from the Co-Chairs of the Jr. Women's Club of Milford, thanking the Department for their participation in the Touch-a-Truck program/fundraiser.
- f. Thank-you letter from Bridgeport Fire Chief Brian Rooney, thanking the Department for the Station coverage during the funerals of their fallen firefighters.
- g. Letter to Chief LaVecchia from Union President Paul Geer regarding recruit testing.
- h. Thank-you letter from James O'Brian of the West Haven Fire Department, thanking the Department for their response to the West Haven district, 210 Blohm Street on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Committee Reports**

Apparatus

Assistant Chief Zingaro reported that routine maintenance was being done on equipment. The only apparatus out of service is Engine 6, "nothing major"; they are just fixing little things.

Awards Ceremony

Firefighter Vargo informed the Commissioners that a date of Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> had been chosen for the ceremony. He added that the civilian awards would be combined

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with the firefighters' awards. He noted that combining the two would hopefully gain some support from the community.

East Side Fire Station Building Committee

Commissioner Brennan reported to the Commissioners that the City of Milford had closed on the property. The soil had been tested, with good results. The design phase of the new station is underway. The Committee will be meeting again on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**8. Chief's Reports**

Commissioners Smith and Brennan made and seconded a motion to enter executive session regarding the entry-level testing. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board entered executive session at 1927 hours.

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

The Board returned to open session at 1957 hours.

**9. Unfinished Business**

None

**10. New Business:**

Chairman Riso directed the Commissioners to the 2011/2012 Budget packet included in the mailing for the meeting.

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Chief LaVecchia commented that the Department has stayed within budget for the past 14 years. The Chief answered a few questions the Commissioners had regarding the budget.

*Commissioners Bercham and Smith made and seconded a motion to approve the provided budget as the proposed budget for 2011/2012. Motion carried unanimously.*

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

None.

**12. Adjournment:**

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

Recorded by C. Birney