

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners Conference Room at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, November 17, 2009**

Call to Order: Chairman Riso called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. A quorum was present.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners' Thomas Riso, Carmen Corvino, John Healy, Richard Smith, William Brennan, Howard Stein and Jonathan Berchem. Also present were Chief Louis A. LaVecchia, Assistant Chief Daniel L. Johnson, Assistant Chief Robert J. Healey, Firefighter Mike Ryan and Firefighter Gil Hoyt

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

Assistant Chief Healey suggested the Awards Ceremony in the future include more recognition towards distinguished service awards. Chairman Riso thanked Assistant Chief Healey for his input.

3. Consideration of Minutes:

Regular Meeting – October 20, 2009

Commissioners' Corvino and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of October 20, 2009 Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Special Meeting – November 2, 2009

Commissioner Stein made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 2, 2009 Special Meeting, noting misspellings. Commissioner Berchem seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Communications

None.

5. Committee Reports

Assistant Chief Johnson gave the following apparatus report: Engine 1 is out of service at Twin Lights for bodywork. Engine 2 (spare) acting. Engine 8 (spare) out of service at shop for pump repairs. HazMat 2 out of service at shop for routine maintenance. Engine 9 (spare) and Rescue 3 (spare) are both available. Engine 1 is scheduled to return this week from the body shop then goes to Spring Replacement for new front springs. Tower 1 and Engine 6 are still due for bodywork repairs. Commissioner Riso asked Chief LaVecchia if there have been any further communications with Sutfin regarding the Tower? Chief LaVecchia referred to Assistant Chief Johnson who reported he received an e-mail from Julie Phelps at Sutfin requesting a list of repairs. Assistant Chief Johnson sent a log of Tower 1 repairs she requested via e-mail approximately 3 weeks ago and hasn't heard back from her yet. Chief LaVecchia asked Chief Johnson to give Julie Phelps a phone call and if there is no action, Chief LaVecchia will contact Sutfin.

6. Chief's Report

Chief LaVecchia commended Assistant Chief Healey and his staff for a job well done at the recent Live Fire Training drills. West Shore was invited to participate and it went really well.

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Chief's Report (continued)

Chief LaVecchia said he would also like to commend Assistant Chief Johnson and his staff for their work taking on some very challenging inspections in the last year.

7. Unfinished Business

Item 1: Personnel matter related to a firefighter: Chief LaVecchia requested to rescind his previous request for disciplinary action that was tabled at the special meeting Commissioners' Stein and Berchem made and seconded a motion at 7:15pm for the Board of Fire Commissioners to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter related to a particular firefighter. The Board invited the following people to attend the Executive Session: Chief LaVecchia, Assistant Chief Johnson, Assistant Chief Healey, Firefighter Mike Ryan and Firefighter Gil Hoyt. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 2: Chief LaVecchia made a request to rescind the motion suspending Rules and Regulations, General Rule #23, wearing of uniforms during campaign for Jim Amann's run for governor. Commissioner Stein stated he would like to make it clear that at no time had the Board of Fire Commissioners endorsed any political candidate for office. Commissioners' Corvino and Healy made and seconded a motion to accept Chief LaVecchia's request to rescind the motion suspending Rules and Regulations, General Rule #23. Motion carried unanimously.

8. New Business

Chief LaVecchia presented the 2010-2011 budget to the Board. The budget represents mostly what we requested last time before cuts, with some increases. Positions we're asking for: 2 Firefighters. Also regarding Rescue 2 we are requesting an additional night. Chairman Riso asked about the maintenance manpower shortage due to the health of a staff member. Chief LaVecchia said he's doing well and recuperating. Best wishes and get well soon from the Board of Fire Commissioners - request to Assistant Chief Johnson that correspondence be sent. Commissioner Stein made a motion recommending support of Chief LaVecchia in terms of the budget submitted to us for review and that the budget be forwarded to the City for consideration. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Berchem. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Brennan comment to Chief LaVecchia: Your budget is very lean compared to other departments' budgets I've seen. It's rock bottom.

9. Comments/Concerns of the Commissioners:

Commissioner Stein had the following comments: I would also reiterate what the Chief said earlier. I attended one of the Live Fire Sessions between this meeting and the last meeting. I was there 4 hours observing Milford and West Shore individually and then together and to Assistant Chief Healey, Battalion Chief Healey, Battalion Chief Zingaro, Captain Zak, Captain Wassmer – I was very impressed by the overall quality of training session. Having participated in many training sessions myself over the years, I observed from everyone there, a realistic experience, which is a direct reflection on the Department and the Officers, inspiring the people involved and speaks to the ISO Class 1 rating. Again, Assistant Chief Healey, Battalion Chief Healey, Battalion Chief Zingaro with cigar, Captain Zak, Captain Wassmer in charge of safety, did a very impressive job. Chairman Riso added he had read in a report that a 350-gallon oil tank was used during the drill. Assistant

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Chief Healey said Battalion Chief Zingaro's wife works for a removal company. This year we cut and used the tank and got 8 revolutions in. Last year the structure burned. Public Works supplied a dumpster and pallets. Waste Tech donated the dumpster. The Officers, Junior Officers and the Troops did a nice job, much praise. Chairman Riso spoke to Commissioner Stein's comment earlier regarding Class 1 and asked Chief LaVecchia to go over his recent trip to New Jersey to meet with ISO. Chief LaVecchia said we have established a very detailed plan with ISO and are looking at implementing changes. A detailed report should be available sometime in December or January.

Chief LaVecchia and Assistant Chief Johnson mentioned they are looking into utilizing Cable Access Channel 9 for filming of training sessions, public safety videos and maybe viewing of actual incidents.

Commissioner Healy wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

10. Adjournment

Commissioners' Smith and Corvino made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:38pm Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mimi Mudrick

UNAPPROVED – SUBJECT TO CORRECTION