

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting**  
**North Side Fire Station**  
**55 Wheelers Farms Road, Milford, CT**  
**Tuesday, November 17, 2015**

1. **Call to Order** : Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:00 hours. A quorum was present.

**Roll Call**: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Brennan, Smith, Stein and Weber were present. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo and Assistant Chiefs Gary Baker and Bernie Begley. Commissioner Riso was out of town. Commissioner Sanner was unable to make the meeting due to work commitments.

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

None.

3. **Consideration of Minutes**:

Regular Meeting - October 20, 2015

*Commissioners Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the October 20, 2015, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

4. **Communications**:

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

i) 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.

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

ii) A thank you letter to the Milford Fire Department from Barnes & Noble for attending their story time and promoting fire safety to the young members of the Milford community.

iii) A thank you letter to the Emergency Medical Services team from Diane Erdos for their quick response, compassion and most professional care received by her in June.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath reported that an additional EMS hearing was held in Hartford and that a final ruling should be received by the end of February.

Chairman McGrath requested from the Chief a full report of all of the departments equipment. The Chairman and Chief agree that a comprehensive rolling stock evaluation has not be completed by the department in some time. The plan is to bring the report to the Commission to review and then to the City so that the short and long term needs of the department may be properly planned for and addressed in future bonding packages.

6. **Committees Reports:**

Personnel Committee: Chairman McGrath reported that Commissioner Stein was asked to become Chairman of the Personnel Committee and he has agreed. Commissioner Weber requested that he be removed from this committee due to personal and work commitments. Chairman McGrath thanked Commissioner Weber for all of his help on the this Committee. Commissioner Riso was asked and agreed to replace Commissioner Weber on the committee.

Chairman McGrath thanked the 3 Chiefs for getting the fitness documentation/test prepared. It's been submitted to the City Attorney and the Commission should have it back before the Board for a December vote.

Chairman McGrath had two meetings with regard to the scuba team and the aging equipment. Senator Slossberg is to meet with the Chairman to try and locate some state funding. They are looking into federal funds as well. The departments dive account has been underfunded for many years. Equipment should be updated and at a minimum is badly in need of proper maintenance. This equipment is now in danger of being unusable if not addressed in the new budget cycle.

7. **Chief's Report:**

Chief Edo reported that the Mayor wants to hold the line on the budget. He reiterated the dive equipment account is very unfunded. He also reported that the Vacation and Holiday Fund is low. Contractually payroll increased to 2.5% in 2014 and 2.8% in 2015. The two mentioned accounts above did not receive those increases and the Chief feels these accounts may be under funded this budget cycle.

Chief Edo reported that the new recruits at the Academy have received positive reports and that 2 of the recruits have become leaders.

Chief Edo reported that Asst. Superintendent of Apparatus Test is tomorrow. It is expected that 10–12 candidates will be taking the exam. The Lieutenant's test will be held on 1/27/16.

Asst. Chief Begley discussed with the Commissioners the department's plan for the replacement of Engine 1. He showed Commissioners a photo of a similar truck operated by a state fire agency. Chief Begley has had several discussions with potential vendors and he hopes to have a better idea of specs and pricing for the December meeting. Chairman McGrath reminded the Chief that the City plans to submit a bonding package(s) to include this truck by the end of February. Time is of the essence. The Chairman also pointed out that this bonding package will also include two additional ambulances.

Chief Edo reported that he was informed that there will be a retirement shortly in the Fire Marshal's Office. He indicated that there needs to be a new test administered for this anticipated opening.

*Commissioners Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion to amend the Agenda to add "Fire Inspector Test" to new business. Motion carried unanimously.*

8. **New Business:**

Fire Inspector's Test:

*Commissioners Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion to authorize the Chief of the Department to produce and administer a Fire Inspector Promotional Exam. Motion carried unanimously.*

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

10. **New Equipment:**

Chief Edo indicated that the refurbished rescue truck is still not on the production line at the vendor. The vendor is in the process of moving (expanding) their production facility. The time line to complete the refurb remains 4 months once the truck makes it to the production line. The Vendor is currently examining a vehicle that it will loan to the department until our refurb is ready.

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

None.

12. **Adjournment:**

Chairman McGrath invited the Commissioners to tour the North Side Fire Station.

Commissioners Smith and Brennan made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:25 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein