

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioner's Conference Room
At Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, November 20, 2018**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:12 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Smith, Stein, Brennan, Weber, Riso and Stanford were present. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo and Assistant Chief Gary Baker.

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

None.

3. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – October 16, 2018

Commissioners Stein and Stanford made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the October 16, 2018, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Smith abstaining.

Special Meeting – October 30, 2018 – Amended

Commissioner Smith indicated that he, and not Commissioner Riso, seconded the Motion to come out of Executive Session and requested that the Minutes of the Special Meeting – October 30, 2018 – Amended be corrected to reflect the same.

Commissioners Smith and Stein made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the October 30, 2018, Special Meeting - Amended as corrected above. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Riso and Brennan abstaining.

4. **Communications:**

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

- i. A handmade thank you card of a fire truck and photos of the students at Sand Castle Learning Center to the department for taking the time to come to the school and teach the children about fire safety.

- ii. A card to Chief Edo from Mathewson PTA thanking him for the department's support and donation of time for a lucky student winner to have lunch with a firefighter.
- iii. An email from Jessica De Young, Orchard Hills School PTA President, thanking the department for their assistance in their 2nd Annual Fun Run. Milford Fire Dept. enthusiastically agreed to "Lunch with a Firefighter" as a prize for the students.
- iv. A letter from Megan Altomare, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Milford, thanking the department for sponsoring the eighth annual Pumpkins on the Pier event. The event exceeded all their goals.
- v. A thank you letter to Chief Edo from Pam Pilla, VP-Special Events, Friends of Milford Library, for the department's generous donation of "Breakfast and a Ride on the Fire Truck." This was a wonderful addition to the Friends of the Milford Library's 2018 Party in the Stacks Silent Auction.
- vi. An email from Gloria Gouse to Chief Edo from Maggie Malone extending her gratitude to the members of the Milford Fire Dept. that responded to a leaking water heater issue at her home.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath on behalf of the Commission expressed his sincere condolences and sorrow to Asst. Chief Bernie Begley and his family on his daughter's passing. The upcoming funeral arrangements will be emailed to the Commissioners.

Chairman McGrath stated that the labor hearing was postponed with regard to Matthew LaVecchia till sometime in December.

Chairman McGrath wished good luck to the Union on behalf of the "Toys for Tots" upcoming event.

Chairman McGrath asked that the Commissioners to make note of the upcoming 2019 Commissioners Meeting schedule in their packet from City Clerk JoAnne Rohrig.

Chairman McGrath congratulated Gloria Gouse as the City Employee of the Month.

Chairman McGrath expressed best wishes to the fire personnel and their families for the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday on behalf of the Commission.

6. **Committees Reports:**

- a) Personnel Committee: Commissioner Stein had nothing to report.
- b) Maintenance & Equipment Committee: Commissioner Brennan had nothing to report.

7. **Chief's Report:**

Budget: Chief Edo indicated that he will be submitting his budget to the Mayor and Board of Finance on December 5th. The budget is significantly up in excess of \$500,000 which he is sure will be reduced.

New Engine 5 – The new engine and Medic Unit are going through their final punch lists. They are being lettered this week and then having their MDTs and radios installed. The Chief hopes that both units should be in-service by Christmas.

Grievance #18-006 – The Chiefs have requested that the City seek mediation pursuant to the CBA regarding Grievance #18-006.

Chairman McGrath asked the Chief to elaborate on the budget increase. The Chief commented some of the increases are due to contractual increases such as wage hikes. The Chief is seeking increases in other accounts that have been historically underfunded. That underfunding is starting to catch up with the department. There has been significant OT this year due to injuries, unexpected retirements and vacation time.

8. **New Business:**

None.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

10. **New Equipment:**

None.

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

Commissioner Stanford wanted to express her gratitude to maintenance man Keith Chamberlain with regard to incident this summer with her husband. She was stranded downtown looking for a gas station when Keith Chamberlain came to her aid without solicitation to help her.

Commissioner Smith wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

12. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:29 hours.
Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein