

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioner's Conference Room
At Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, December 18, 2018**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:17 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 Chiefs Gary Baker and Berne Begley.

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

None.

3. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – November 20, 2018

Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the November 20, 2018, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications:**

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

- i. Letter from Frank Rohrig to Chief Edo thanking the department for the respect shown by department members at Elaine's funeral on Wednesday, November 28th.
- ii. Letter of Commendation from BC Fabrizi to Chief Edo regarding FFs Hannigan, Biroscak and Sansone on their performance during the Engine 6 inspection at Ferrara Fire Apparatus facility.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath wished everyone a safe holiday and thanked everyone for their support throughout the year. He also wished the Union well on their holiday toys for tots campaign.

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 and A.C. Baker met with the Mayor regarding the submitted budget. The Mayor was requesting a flat budget request from all departments. He indicated to the Mayor that the department had contractual wage increases that needed to be addressed. Next meeting will be with the Board of Finance. The Chief indicated that the department is managing but this perpetual underfunding really hurts.

Retirement Dinner: The department recently honored 5 retirees with over 91 years of combined experience. The Chief wished them well.

New Engine 6: The new engine is in and will be place into service soon as the new Engine 6 in the East Side Station. The Engine is available for inspection following the meeting.

Recruit Graduation: Graduation was December 7th. The new recruits were finishing their in-house pre-assignment department training. Both recruits will be assigned to platoons shortly. One to A platoon on a medic unit. The other to D platoon on Quint 5.

Lieutenant testing: The first phase of the Lieutenant testing is complete. 12 candidates took the written exam. 8 of the 12 passed with a 70% or better. Those 8 will advance to the 2nd phase in January consisting of assessment and simulations. The results of the 2 phases will be totaled and then seniority points will be added per the CBA. Thereafter, a promotion list will be created.

Finally, the Chief noted that a FF's daughter recently underwent a liver transplant. It appears to be successful and the liver seems to be responding well. She is still in ICU at Yale.

The Chairman asked the Chief what the overall budget increase was based on contractual obligations. The Chief indicated that he didn't have an exact number but it was close to 5% adding that the budget is so tight it squeaks.

The Chairman indicated that the uncertainty regarding the future of Milford Hospital could add substantial unbudgeted cost to the department. It is expected that Yale/ NH Hospital may acquire Milford Hospital sometime by May. If not, there could be a closing and/or bankruptcy filing by the hospital. Either way, the department may see increased cost pertaining to equipment and supplies used during calls. Thereafter, a discussion ensued.

8. New Business:

None.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

10. **New Equipment:**

None.

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

Commissioner Brennan noted that the Commission is not getting reports from some people and others are just changing the date on theirs. He views this as disrespectful. He also requested a report from Nelson's for the transports that they do for the department. The Chairman will add this to the January agenda.

Commissioner Stanford asked Chief Baker about the status of the grievance recently argued. Chief Baker indicated that testimony was given and that legal briefs are due from the parties by January 15, 2019. Then another 30 to 40 days for the written opinion.

Commissioner Smith wished everyone a Happy Holiday and invited everyone to the Seven Seas following the meeting.

12. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:30 hours.
Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein