

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners Conference Room at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Call to Order: Chairman Riso called the meeting to order at 1904 hours. A quorum was present.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners Thomas Riso, John Healy, Karen Craig, Richard Smith, and Howard Stein. Also present were Chief Louis A. LaVecchia and Assistant Chief Robert J. Healey.

Commissioner William Brennan was excused.

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

None.

3. Swearing In:

None.

4. Consideration of Minutes:

Regular Meeting – November 15, 2011

Commissioners Healy and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2011, regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Stein abstained from voting as he was not present at the previous meeting.

5. Communications:

- a. Letter from Tax Services of Milford in memoriam of Mr. Robert Diamond who passed away on May 14, 2011; a donation of \$3000 was made in his name asking for \$1000 to go to the equipment fund, \$1000 to the Firefighters' Welfare Fund, and \$1000 to Toys for Tots.

Commissioners Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the donation and apply it as spelled out by the donor. Motion carried unanimously.

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Chairman Riso suggested having the Department send a thank-you letter to Tax Services of Milford for the donation.

- b. Thank-you letter to the Firefighters at Station 7 from David McDonald thanking them for their assistance after an accident on November 26. Included was a \$150 check.

Commissioners Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the check and apply it to the Good and Welfare Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Riso commented he was in receipt of an email from the Milford City Attorney regarding updates on the contract negotiations between the City and the Union. He stated it would not be appropriate for the Board of Fire Commissioners to sit with the negotiating team from the City.

6. Committee Reports

Apparatus

Assistant Chief Healey reported the Engine 3 is out of service for repairs. He added that a new truck is being looked at.

Chief LaVecchia informed the Commissioners that he and some representatives from the Department traveled to the Sutphin Company to discuss the new Quint. He said the Quint completion is expected in April.

East Side Fire Station Building Committee

Commissioner Healy reported the asphalt has been laid on the site and noted it was critical to have this done prior to the asphalt companies shutting down for the winter season. He said a finish coat of asphalt will be laid in the spring.

He reported that the roof trusses are in the process of going up, and the mezzanine has been poured. He said once the trusses are completed, other subcontractors can get their work done.

Commissioner Healy commented that Waters Construction has replaced Lametta & Sons for the excavation work.

He also noted that the Milford City Attorney is now involved in the process, as well as Battalion Chief Healey.

Commissioner Healy said the windows are on order as well as the interior doors. The Committee will meet next on January 4th.

Commissioner Healy commented that the City Attorney has been fantastic through this process; Chief LaVecchia agreed. Chairman Riso added it is fortunate that Commissioner Berchem has become the new City Attorney.

7. Chief's Reports

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Chief LaVecchia opened the floor to questions about his submitted report. He highlighted the fact that the fire school recruits would be graduating that Thursday and would be in-house on Friday. He also noted that there are ongoing meetings regarding improving the EMS response time.

8. Unfinished Business:

Special Leave (Swap Time)

Assistant Chief Healey reported that the online shift program is not meeting the Department's needs. He said they are currently looking at other vendors. Chairman Riso inquired as to what system is currently in place; Assistant Chief Healey said the old paper card system is in use and is working well. Commissioner Stein inquired if there was any cost associated with the use of the online program; Assistant Chief Healey said there is but he doesn't know the amount as of yet.

2012-2013 Budgets

Chief LaVecchia stated the budget had been sent to Mayor Blake, who is asking the Department to make reductions. Commissioner Craig inquired if the Mayor had stated how much in reductions he is asking for; the Chief said the Mayor requested the Department to give honest figures and look make the reductions without affecting services.

L.R. Kimball Report

The Chief reminded the Commissioners that L.R. Kimball had reviewed the 911 center and he is in receipt of the final report. He passed out to the Commissioners copies of the Department's report they provided to L.R. Kimball of their review of the 911 system. Assistant Chief Healey reviewed the report with the Commissioners. Commissioner Healy commented the report was very professional and very comprehensive, and it was clear a big effort was put into making the report. Commissioner Craig inquired when the final decision would be made; the Chief said there has not been any discussion about that yet.

9. Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:

Chairman Riso wished all a happy holiday and gave his regards to Commissioner Brennan for a quick recovery. Commissioner Healy stated that Commissioner Brennan seems to be in good spirits.

Commissioner Stein inquired as to which of the Commissioners would be up for reappointment in the new year. Chairman Riso stated he and Commissioner Brennan are

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up for reappointment, and the spot held by Commissioner Berchem is now vacant as he is now the Milford City Attorney.

10. Adjournment

Commissioners Smith and Healy made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 1933 hours.
Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by C. Birney