

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners' Conference Room
at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, December 20, 2016**

1. **Call to Order** : Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:15 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Brennan, Smith, Stein, Riso and Weber were present. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo and Assistant Chiefs Gary Baker and Bernie Begley. Commissioner Stanford was ill and the Chairman wished her well.

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

None.

3. **Consideration of Minutes**:

Regular Meeting - November 15, 2016

Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2016, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications**:

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

- i) Chief Edo received a thank you letter from Megan Altomare, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Milford for the department's continued support of their Sixth Annual Festival of Pumpkins on the Pier.
- ii) A Christmas card from a Milford resident thanking Milford's best fire personnel and paramedics for twice saving her life.
- iii) Chief Edo received phone messages thanking the department for the wonderful services provided by the medics both on a mall call and a home emergency.

5. **Chairman's Report**:

Chairman McGrath sent a Season's Greeting to the fire personnel and their families for the upcoming Holiday Season on behalf of the Commission.

Chairman McGrath spoke about the retirement dinner recently at Costa Azzurra and expressed that it was a fun night. Mayor Blake made a proclamation on behalf of Retired Firefighter Steve Racz and awarded him a plaque for years of service at the Police and Firefighters annual Christmas dinner.█

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 met with the Mayor 2 weeks ago. The Mayor wants to keep the budget flat, however, there are some contractually obligated and otherwise important increases in the budget and the Chief is hoping that they will stay.

Ambulance Bid - Chief Edo reported that the department is purchasing a demo based on different ambulance bids (chassis, remount and demo) recently received. The demo was \$12,000 more than the lowest bid, however, there were features included in the bid that the department found to be favorable. This ambulance is a Ford 550. It's a bigger and beefier frame than the Ford 450. The department's conclusions were reduced to writing and submitted to the City Purchasing Department. The ambulance should be ready by the end of January.

Contract Negotiations - Chief Edo reported that they are still moving along.

Recruit visit (chairman) - Commissioner McGrath and Chief Edo travelled to the Connecticut Fire Academy to visit with the recruits. Multiple people connected to the State Academy commented on how wonderful the Milford recruits were doing.

Graduation – All 3 Chiefs attended the recent graduation. This was the 10 year anniversary of the "Hard Charger Award" in memory of Firefighter Michael Riley. Once again, a Milford recruit was recognized for this prestigious award. The Chief commented that Milford Fire Department has won this award 7 times in the last 10 years. Chief Edo expressed how proud he was of the department.

Retirement Dinner - Chairman McGrath, Chief Edo and the Mayor were all at the retirement dinner at Costa Azzurra. Chief reported that it was well attended and a good time was had by all. There were 4 retirees honored.

Fire Marshal Begley - Asst. Chief Begley is now certified and sworn in as the Milford Fire Marshal.

Marine 1 - Asst. Chief Baker reported that Marine 1 was now at Beacon Point Marina. Some final insurance repairs are being addressed and the boat is being winterized. It will be stored in Seaman's Lane facility for the balance of the winter. Marine 1 can be launched, if necessary, otherwise it will be ready for the Spring.

8. **New Business:**

None.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

10. **New Equipment:**

None.

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

Commissioner Riso inquired about new medications that were approved for use by department paramedics. The Chiefs' briefly and collectively indicated that Milford Hospital approved 6 new medications for department use.

Commissioner Brennen asked about the number of Lucas tools that the department had in service. Chief Edo indicated that almost every engine had one.

Commissioner Weber asked how the transition with Nelson's Ambulance was going? The Chief indicated that everything was going very smooth. Nelson's is seeing an increase in applications to their company from people interested in working in Milford. Commissioner Weber further asked how many paid fire department's there are in the State. The Chief indicated that he thought there were about 50 departments mostly on the shore line and in the bigger cities.

Commissioner Riso also asked about the status of the Seaman's Lane facility. The Chief and the Chairman indicated that it is still just a storage facility. There are discussions with City Hall and the City Attorney's Office regarding potential future uses. However, since the property was acquired from the Federal Government, there are HUD restrictions that require the property to be used for a regional purpose.

Commissioner Smith wished the Commissioners a happy holiday and invited the Commissioners to stop by the Seven Seas for holiday cheer.

12. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:32 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein