

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners Conference Room at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Call to Order: Chairman Riso called the meeting to order at 1907 hours. A quorum was present.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners Thomas Riso, Karen Craig, John Healy, Jonathan Bercham, Howard Stein, and William A. Brennan. Also present were Chief Louis A. LaVecchia and Assistant Chief Robert J. Healey.

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

None.

3. Swearing In:

None.

4. Consideration of Minutes:

Commissioner Craig noted a change to the minutes: page two, item 6d should read Harriet Rocz.

Commissioners Healy and Stein abstained from voting on accepting the minutes as they were not present at the previous meeting.

Commissioners Craig and Brennan made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the November 16, 2010, regular meeting as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Communications:

- a. Letter from Thomas Hurlahey from the Bridgeport Firefighters Local 834 thanking the Milford Dinosaurs for their response to the tornados and during the funerals of their fallen brothers in June and July of this year; enclosed was a \$1000 check.

Commissioners Healy and Craig made and seconded a motion to accept the check and move that it go into the appropriate meal account as reimbursement. Motion carried unanimously.

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- b. Thank-you letter from Angelise Perez, thanking Firefighter Andrew Varga for his help with a Rotary fundraiser.
- c. Letter from the State of Connecticut to Mayor Richetelli stating the City of Milford's Local Emergency Plan is in satisfactory compliance with Title 28, Chapter 17 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- d. Thank-you letter from Ms. Laura's Sandcastle Learning Center, thanking the firemen who had visited her school. The kids are still talking about it.
- e. Holiday card from American Medical Response.
- f. Thank-you letter from the City of Meriden to Dan Worroll.
- g. Thank-you letter from the Literacy Center to the Department for donating a fire truck ride.
- h. Thank-you letter from Milford Preschool Learning Center, thanking the Chief for helping with their fair.

6. Committee Reports

Apparatus

Assistant Chief Healey reported that Engine 8 is out of service, but all other equipment is in service.

East Side Fire Station Building Committee

Vice-Chair Healy reported that the Building Committee had a productive meeting on December 15th. He informed the Commissioners that Mr. Tom Ivers from the City of Milford Community Development had stated in a prior meeting that there was a possibility his department could supply funds for the commissioning of the new station. After the last meeting of the Committee, Battalion Chief Healey was instructed to contact Mr. Ivers regarding the funds for commissioning; and on the following day, Chief LaVecchia informed Vice-Chair Healy that the funds for commissioning were contingent upon the Committee seeking LEED certification.

Vice-Chair Healy also informed the Commissioners that the Committee had voted at the last meeting to not seek LEED certification, as it would add both time and money to the project; the Committee came to this decision after an extensive and comprehensive presentation by Mr. Del Smith at the last meeting. The Committee is in favor of seeking commissioning of the building, which would cost about \$15,000. Vice-Chair Healy and Chief LaVecchia were informed by Mr. Ivers that the Committee wouldn't be able to get the funds for the commissioning unless they went for LEED certification. Vice-Chair Healy stated he was disappointed by this information because Mr. Ivers had never stated the funds for commissioning were contingent upon seeking LEED certification prior to this point. Vice-Chair Healy also reported that he had a discussion with Chief LaVecchia before this meeting where the Chief requested he be able to contact Mr. Ivers one more time; Vice-Chair Healy reported he told the Chief he could make that call. Vice-Chair Healy said he would revisit the issue with the Committee based on what Mr. Ivers told

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Chief LaVecchia: that if the Committee went for LEED certification and came up a little short, his department would provide the funds for commissioning, as long as the Committee made an honest effort for LEED certification.

Vice-Chair Healy noted that the Committee, in the alternative, intends to try and achieve Energy Star certification, which is a far less complicated and time-consuming process.

Commissioner Brennan commented that the City of Milford informed the Committee halfway through the process of the block grant instead of at the beginning.

Vice-Chair Healy informed the Commissioners that the Building Committee's next meeting would be on January 11th, 2011; and that the construction documents would be ready to go out to bid on February 1st. He added that the site is cleared, and it looks great.

7. Chief's Reports

Budget

Chief LaVecchia reported to the Commissioners that the Mayor informed him that the end of the budget needs to be zero. He is holding every department to this.

8. Unfinished Business

Entry Level Testing

Chief LaVecchia informed the Commissioners that they have completed the oral interview process with the help of a "highly efficient" company out of New Hampshire that they have used for the first time. The Chief said he would bring the results to the next Commissioners' meeting. The Chief explained the oral interview process to the Commissioners.

Emergency Repair Funds

Chief LaVecchia told the Commissioners that the Department had applied for a FEMA grant for new air packs, and they had received an email asking for more information.

Swap Time

The Chief reported that the Union had agreed to a 30-day trial period of the electronic system for swap time.

9. New Business:

Chairman Riso informed the Commissioners that he had just been informed of pending litigation that needed to be discussed.

Commissioners Healy and Bercham made and seconded a motion to enter executive session, including Chief LaVecchia, to discuss pending litigation. Motion carried unanimously.

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The Board entered executive session at 1936 hours.

Commissioners Stein and Brennan made and seconded a motion to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session at 2020 hours.

10. Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:

Vice-Chair Healy wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

11. Adjournment:

Commissioners Craig and Healy made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 2022 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by C. Birney