

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting**  
**72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT**  
**Tuesday, December 21, 2021**

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 18:07 hours. A quorum was present.

**Roll Call:** In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Stein, Riso, Smith, Brennan, and Weber were present. Also, present were Chief Edo, and Assistant Chief Fabrizi

**Absent:** Commissioner Stanford.

*Commissioners Stein and Weber made and seconded a motion to amend the agenda to include under item VIII New Business – Executive session with regard to the appointment of an Assistant Chief and move item VI Committees report prior to item XI Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously.*

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

None

- III. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting November 16, 2021

*Commissioners Smith and Riso made and second a motion to accept the minutes of November 16, 2021. Motions carried unanimously.*

- IV. **Communications:**

Commissioner Smith read a note of thanks with a donation of \$100 from Douglas and Libra Nosal. Commissioner Smith also read a card from 141 meadow Street thanking the department for the professional and quick response to their home. Included was a donation of \$100.

*Commissioner Stein and Brennan made and second a motion to donate the two \$100 checks to the Good and Welfare Fund. Motion carries unanimously.*

V. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath extends a heartfelt wish for a safe and enjoyable holiday to the commission and firefighters. Chairman McGrath also extended his appreciation to Local 944 for the hard work related to the Toys for Tots program.

VII. **Chief's Report:**

Budget meeting with Mayor – Small gains were made in the budget with the goal being to increase wage accounts. Small strides were made in the vacation relief account. Increases were also made in apparatus maintenance categories as well as fire station improvements.

Retirement dinner – The Chief stated the retirement dinner was well attended; he also noted the 253 years of experience that were celebrated.

Recruit test & CT Fire Academy update – The Fire Academy has a goal of reducing the class size to seventy or less. Milford had secured eleven spots, which may or may not make it due to the lottery that may be implemented. There is a January 4<sup>th</sup> deadline of applications. The Chief also spoke on the summer program for recruits who have completed Firefighter I. More information will be provided at the next scheduled meeting. New Haven Academy has also been contacted regarding recruits attending depending on the outcome. Chairman McGrath stated all candidates have been interview in chronological order and placed in a chronological order. The goal is to have all eleven candidates attend the academy, if all spots cannot be provided due to the lottery selection the personnel committee has given the chief information regarding the selection aspect.

COVID update – Chief Edo indicated the amount of positive Covid19 calls has increased and the department is enforcing a mask mandate in all fire stations until further notice. This has also increased the decontamination process. His hope is for the numbers to go down after the holiday season.

Apparatus update – Old Engine 4 (now Engine 2 spare) has received a new transmission and will be back in service soon. The department will than have two solid spare apparatus.

VIII. **New Business:**

a) Executive Session

Commissioner Stein and Smith made and second a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the appointment of Assistant Chief. Motion carries unanimously.

Commissioner Stein requests the two chiefs remain close by for the purpose of providing opinion or testimony.

The Commission went into executive session at 18:20.

The Commission invited Chief Edo, Assistant Chief Fabrizi into Executive Session at 19:07. Chief Edo and Assistant Chief Fabrizi exit executive session at 19:33.

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to exit from Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the appointment of Assistant Chief. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 20:08. Chairman McGrath noted that no votes were taken while in Executive Session.

IX. **Unfinished Business:**

- a) 2022 Fire Commissioner Meeting Schedule

Chairman McGrath distributed the meeting schedule for year 2022 of The Fire Commission that will be submitted to the City Clerk.

X. **New Equipment:**

None

VI. **Committees Report:**

- a) Maintenance & Equipment: Commissioner Brennan stated the Tower has passed the ladder inspection with minor repairs needed. It will be back in full service shortly.
- b) Safety Committee Liaison: Nothing to report.
- c) Personnel Committee: Commissioner Stein states the personnel sub committee has meet several times over the last thirty days regarding continuation of the recruit interview process. Five more applicants have been interviewed since the November meeting, which now completes the interview process. Commissioner Stein reported this was the first time the commission went through the process which included the departments background check deployed by a separate agency. Providing the board, a comprehensive background check which provided useful information regarding questioning He concluded that the subcommittee have submitted final recommendations regarding the hiring process and openings available at the Fire Academy. Based upon the boards recommendations the Chief will be able to fill the slots based on the number of seats available in the upcoming training class. Commissioner Stein stated in regard to the second item the subcommittee (consisting of Commissioners Stein, McGrath and Brennan) meet with two candidates for the position of Assistant Chief of the Fire department. The management level position is by appointment pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement from the Battalion Chief classification of the department. Battalion Chief Christopher Zak and Battalion Chief Christopher Waiksnoris were interviewed. Based on the interview process and continued discussion amount subcommittee members it was the unanimous decision of the subcommittee to make a recommendation to the full board of Fire Commissioners that Battalion Chief Christopher Waiksnoris be appointed Assistant Chief of Milford Fire Department.

Commissioners Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion to appoint Battalion Chief Christopher Waiksnoris to the position of assistant Chief of the Milford Fire Department. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Chairman McGrath stated that this meeting is Commissioner Joe Weber's last meeting. The Chairman and the entire board gave a sincere thanks to Commissioner Weber for his service and knowledge. Acknowledging the Milford City taxpayers have been served very well.

XII. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 20:20 Motion carried unanimously.