

# Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting

72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

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- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 18:49 hours. A quorum was present.

**Roll Call:** In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Stein, R. Smith, Brennan, P. Smith and Soda were present. Also, present were Alderman Liaison Michele Parente, Chief Edo, Assistant Chief Fabrizi, Assistant Chief Waiksnoris and Battalion Chief Stephen Rabel

**Absent:** Commissioner Riso

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

None

- III. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Corrected Minutes of December 20, 2022, and Regular Meeting January 17, 2023  
Commissioner P. Smith stated under IV. Communications on January 17, 2023, R. Smith read the communications not P. Smith as indicated.

*Commissioners P. Smith and R. Smith made and second a motion to accept the corrected minutes of December 20, 2022, and the January 17, 2023 minutes. After the forementioned correction of the first initial of the Commissioner. Motions carried unanimously.*

- IV. **Communications:**

None

- V. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath stated he is still working with Assistant Chief Waiksnoris regarding EMS reports. New reports should be coming next month indicating response numbers. He noted January call numbers as 743 incidents with 542 being EMS related. A special meeting may be held regarding dispatch updates, as there has been supervisory updates. If there is no special meeting the Chairman will update the board in March. Chairman McGrath wanted to recognize and thank the crew involved with the house fire on Meadowside Rd. He also acknowledged members who were involved with the Bridgeport Islanders visit to the department. As well as all involved with the tractor trailer fuel tank spill last week. Chairman McGrath noted the award that Bridgeport Hospital Department of Emergency Medical Services awarded to department members for life saving actions. He also extended a

special thank you to the Public Work Department for the sign installation at Seemans Lane.

VII. **Committee Reports:**

- a) Personnel Committee: Nothing to report.
- b) Maintenance Committee: Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated the Tower is scheduled to have the frame evaluated. He noted if the frame needs repairs, it would be cost prohibited. Pending the outcome, a better decision can be made.
- c) Safety Committee Liaison: Commissioner Brennan stated topics were roofs and apparatus maintenance. Chairman McGrath and Chief Edo had a meeting with the director of Public Works in regard to the roof situation. A solution should be soon.

VIII. **Chiefs Report:**

Chief Edo noted the discussion with Public Works also included mechanics. Recruit class 71 is in progress, they started February 14 and graduate the end of May. He noted that the class has 45 recruits at the academy at this time, allowing for more hands-on training. The academy will be doing PT testing as a component of the program. The Chief stated the capital budget was presented and money to replace Quint 3 was awarded, he noted the two-year build time. Roofs were postponed until budget year 24-25, noting the urgent need for roofing, he is hoping for a resolve quicker as issues will only get worse. The ongoing heat issues at Eastside Fire Station have vendors providing quotes that hopefully will get approved. Commissioner P. Smith questioned the heat issues. Commissioner Brennan noted it was a system design flaw. Chairman McGrath requested a vote approving repairs due to the urgent nature.

*Commissioners Brennan and P. Smith made and second a motion to approve repairs subject to financing. Motions carried unanimously.*

IX. **New Business:**

- a) Development of 2023 Awards Committee - Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated a department committee has been formed regarding an awards ceremony. The goal is to have an awards ceremony mid-June which would include recognition of actions that have gone over and above from members, including recognition for service during the Covid pandemic. He noted planning is in the early stages, but invites will go to aldermen, state politicians and retired members. Commissioner Brennan noted retirees should be awarded for their actions when on duty.
- b) Approval for New Recruit Test – Chief Edo stated several promotional exams are coming up leaving vacancies for firefighters. The goal would be to use the high school for the physical portion when it is closed as past practice. Chairman McGrath questioned the current vacancies. Chief Edo stated currently there is one vacancy, six recruits are at the academy and several more vacancies are expected. Commissioner P. Smith stated the timeline. Chief Edo stated once the approval is given the process would begin, as the application process begins online. The agility test would be in

June, with the hopes of approval of a list for the July meeting.

Commissioners P. Smith and Brennan made and second a motion to approve the process for a new recruit test. Motions carried unanimously.

IX. **Unfinished Business:**

X. **New Equipment:**

Assistant Chief Fabrizio stated the bid spec process has begun for the replacement of Quint 3. Specs have been received from Stuphen. He reached out to Pierce and specs are to be expected shortly. He noted the price increase with Stuphen come May. He implored to the commission to do their due diligence in selecting the right unit for the job for the long-term duration for the city. Noting the results will set the stage for the next ladder truck. Commissioner Brennan spoke in favor of a 100' ladder and stated he would vote against a 75'. Chairman McGrath stated if a special meeting is needed for approval the commission would oblige. Chairman McGrath mentioned the press release of the Inspector imposter. Battalion Chief Rabel stated that several thefts within the city have been happening where an individual identifies themselves as an Inspector from the Milford Fire Department. He affirmed that the Fire Marshals Division does not sub-contract out and do not except payment for inspections in the field at any time. This is now a police matter Battalion Chief Rabel noted the department is in receipt of a new battery-operated hurst tool. The hydraulic unit is so outdated parts are hard to get when repair is needed.

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

None

XII. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners P. Smith and R. Smith made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:08 Motion carried unanimously.