

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, February 20, 2024

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman Kevin McGrath called the meeting to order at 18:30 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Howard Stein, Richard Smith, William Brennan, Peter Smith, and Cynthia Twiss were present. Also, present were Chief Anthony Fabrizi, Assistant Chief Christopher Waiksnoris, Assistant Chief Stephen Rabel, Battalion Chief AJ Murphy, Alderman Liaison Jason Jenkins, Michael Tracy Sr. and his son Michael Tracy Jr. from Tracy's Garage

Absent: Commissioner Thomas Riso

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

None

Chairman McGrath noted the guests that were present from Tracy's Garage who have done work on fire department fleet.

Commissioner Stein and Brennan made and second a motion to amend the agenda and include a presentation from Tracy's. III b. Fleet maintenance

- III. **a) Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2024

Commissioner Stein stated in XII. Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners his name was misspelled. He also stated his comment should have stated: This board just nominated and reappointed unanimously as its chairman Kevin McGrath based on the 3 republicans, 2 democrats and 1 independent despite the fact the mayor did not reappoint him. He noted the appointments of the mayor were not ratified by the board of alderman.

Commissioners P. Smith and R. Smith made and second a motion to accept the minutes of January 16, 2024, with the aforementioned corrections. Motions carried unanimously.

b) Fleet Maintenance

Michael Tracy Sr. and Michael Tracy Jr. presented to the board their findings with Squad 1 and a tiered maintenance program that can be provided to the fire department fleet. An in-depth discussion was had regarding apparatus needs, expenses, and life cycles. Chairman McGrath updated the board on the mechanic position. All agreed the goal is to have reliable Apparatus that are safe for personnel.

IV. **Communications:**

None

V. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath extended congratulations to the recently promoted individuals. He thanked all who responded to the fire on Amber Lane. Chairman McGrath stated a meeting was had with state reps regarding SB 66 for purchase of fire boats. He also thanked the Chiefs and admin Battalion Chiefs who work tirelessly every day.

VII. **Committee Reports:**

- a) Personnel Committee: Nothing to report.
- b) Maintenance Committee: Nothing to report.
- c) Safety Committee Liaison: Nothing to report.
- d) Education Committee: Commissioner P. Smith stated Board of Aldermen will be invited in March to visit the department to observe operations.

VIII. **Chiefs Report:**

Chief Fabrizi submitted his report to the board, there were no questions or comments.

IX. **New Business:**

a) **24/25 Budget Update**

On behalf of the board, himself and the department Chairman McGrath thanked the Mayor for the proposed budget. Chief Fabrizi spoke on the presentation being submitted to the Board of Finance. Commissioner Twiss asked if there was a plan if cuts need to be made. She also stated people need to understand the level of care the department provides. The public needs to be educated that the fire department is a multi-complex organization in regard to public safety. Alderman Liaison Jenkins agreed, stated he is understanding the number of incidents and medical calls the department receives. Having Aldermen visit would be enlightening for budgetary needs. Chief Fabrizi implored Alderman Jenkins to convey to other board members on what he has witnessed within the department. Chief Fabrizi stated he is cautiously optimistic and ready to make a strong appeal for funding as the department has been running on a shoestring budget for too long.

IX. **Unfinished Business:**

a) **Tower 1**

Chairman McGrath stated until enough information is available Tower 1 will stay tabled.

X. **New Equipment:**

None

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

Commissioner P. Smith questioned the frozen hydrant regarding a recent incident. Chief Fabrizi explained the threads on the cap were crossed and it was seized, it has since been reported to RWA and rectified. Commissioner P. Smith noted the incident in Minnesota regarding public safety personnel. He stated how proud he is of the police and fire department and wanted to make note how fortunate Milford is to have these people that risk their lives daily. Commissioner P. Smith wanted to express his thoughts to those great people and wanted to extend that to their families. Commissioner Twiss expressed her appreciation to all involved in the presentation to the board of alderman regarding the EV chargers. She felt the information was precise and is a real public safety issue.

XII. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners R. Smith and P. Smith made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 20:00
Motion carried unanimously.