

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, March 19, 2024

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman Kevin McGrath called the meeting to order at 18:31 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Richard Smith, William Brennan, Peter Smith, and Cynthia Twiss were present. Also, present were Chief Anthony Fabrizi, Assistant Chief Stephen Rabel, Battalion Chief AJ Murphy, Local 944 Secretary Robert Buch, and Alderman Liaison Jason Jenkins

Absent: Commissioners Howard Stein, and Thomas Riso

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

None

- III. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2024

Commissioners R. Smith and P. Smith made and second a motion to accept the minutes of February 20, 2024. Motions carried unanimously.

- IV. **Communications:**

None

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

Chairman McGrath updated the board on the roof at HQ which he noted is in bad shape. He thanked Firefighter D. Beicher for his military service. Commissioner McGrath thanked Fire Department members (Firefighters Lanzante, Connors, Adinolfi, Albert, Lieutenant Bocchetta and Captain Mohr) for the high-level cardiac save. He wished all a Happy Easter Holiday.

- VII. **Committee Reports:**

- a) Personnel Committee: Chairman McGrath stated a meeting will be had soon regarding paperwork for new hires.
- b) Maintenance Committee: Commissioner Brennan noted a mechanic has been approved and funded but is stalled due to union matters.

- c) Safety Committee Liaison: Commissioner Brennan stated new members have been added to the safety group which is held at Fire HQ the first Monday of each month. He feels all members from city departments should attend.
- d) Education Committee: Commissioner P. Smith stated an Open House will be held on April 13 at 10am. He will work with the chief on invitations.

VIII. **Chiefs Report:**

Chief Fabrizi submitted his report to the board; Commissioner P. Smith thanked Battalion Chief Murphy and Captain Tobias for the interdepartmental training of municipal employees in CPR.

IX. **New Business:**

a) **Education Stipend Consideration:**

Chief Fabrizi stated a firefighter had submitted college credits for tuition stipend but due to contract language the board would have to approve the decision. He feels that because the department is 65–70% EMS based, a stipend should be granted. Commissioner Twiss hoped that what qualifies would be spelled out in the next contract. Commissioner P. Smith stated that the board should encourage members to seek the educational stipend.

Commissioners P. Smith and Brennan made and second a motion to approve Firefighter M. Castiglione to receive the education stipend related to 90 credits a degree in Fire Science and/or similar firefighting related programs. Motions carried unanimously.

b) **Grievance 24-01:**

Union Secretary Captain Robert Buch was present and explained to the board that Grievance 24-01 is an extension of Grievances 23-01 and 23-02. Stating the board failed to notify the local in writing and within fifteen days the results of said grievances.

Commissioners R. Smith and P. Smith made and second a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing Grievance 24-01. Motions carried unanimously.

Chairman McGrath request the chiefs and Local 944 rep remain near for the purpose of offering testimony and/or opinion.

The board enters executive session at 19:00.

Local 944 representative Secretary Robert Buch enters executive session at 19:15.

Local 944 representative Secretary Robert Buch exits executive session at 19:23.

Chief Fabrizi and Assistant Chief Rabel enter the executive session at 19:26.

Chief Fabrizi and Assistant Chief Rabel exit executive session at 19:45.

Commissioners R. Smith and Twiss made and seconded a motion to exit the executive Session. Motion carries unanimously.

The Commission, exit executive session at 19:46

Chairman McGrath noted no votes were taken during executive session.

Commissioner R. Smith and Twiss made and second a motion to deny Grievances 24-01. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. Unfinished Business:

a) Tower 1

Assistant Chief Rabel informed the board of the city bid results and broker suggestions. T-1 has been listed with the city for a sealed bid as well as with Fenton Fire Apparatus and Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus. Commissioner Brennan stated that the city bid results were too low and should not be accepted. A discussion ensued regarding timeframes, components, and value.

Commissioner P. Smith and R. Smith made and second a motion to not accept the bids from the city and lower the bid with the brokers by \$1,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman McGrath stated Tower 1 will be off the agenda and added to new business when more information is received.

X. New Equipment:

Chairman McGrath suggested showing the new E-One Typhoon Pumper at the Board of Alderman's next meeting. Chief Fabrizi stated if the apparatus is not being upfitted he will arrange it.

XI. Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:

Commissioner Brennan reiterated the need for a station on the north end of Milford.

XII. Adjournment:

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