

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, April 19, 2022

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 18:35 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 was Chief Edo, Assistant Chief Fabrizi and Assistant Chief Waiksnoris.

Absent: Commissioner Riso.

- II. **Public Statements limited to the function of the Board of Fire Commissioners:**
None

- III. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting Correct Minutes – March 15, 2022

Commissioners P. Smith and Brennan made and second a motion to accept the minutes of March 15, 2022. Motions carried unanimously.

- IV. **Communications:**

Commissioner R. Smith read several correspondences:

1. A card from the late Alderman Marty Hardiman's wife Linda, thanking the Chief and members of the department for their thoughtfulness and friendship during that time.
2. A letter of thanks from Principal Sherrod McNeil of Pumpkin Delight. Thanking Firefighter Brian Connelly, Firefighter Andrew Komoroski, Lieutenant Gavin O'Brien, Lieutenant Thomas Piskura and Battalion Chief Thomas Thornberg for the quality care provided and their caliber of character displayed during a student's time of need.

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

Chairman McGrath hoped the committee had a good holiday weekend. He also congratulated Battalion Chief Daniel Wassmer on his recent retirement, thanking him for his service to the city on behalf of the commission. Chairman McGrath noted that a discussion is being pursued with PD and Fire regarding a safety issue at an incident with dispatch.

VI. Committees Report:

- a) Personnel Committee: Nothing.
- b) Maintenance & Equipment: Nothing.
- c) Safety Committee Liaison: Commissioner Brennan noted the safety committee meeting and the notes that he made regarding the meeting from April. He spoke of the vent system to be installed at Seemans Lane. Commissioner Brennan then spoke of variations between safety concerns and general issues.

VII. Chief's Report:

Budget – Chief Edo stated the budget process has begun for year 22-23. He pointed out the discrepancies to the aldermen, he hopes it will pass as submitted.

Recruits – The most recent report for the recruits was currently not available. Chief Edo stated the training division has visited the recruits at the academy, and they are doing well. The tentative graduation date is May 28.

Academy Update – The consensus of the Chiefs Committee is to reduce the weeks at the academy. This would encompass some nights and staying over. Realizing how tough it may be for people to stay overnight. The cuts will come at the guidance of instructors. Commissioner P. Smith questioned overtime of recruits, obligation of overnight stays and local training. Chief Edo stated recruits are paid overtime after an eight-hour period, this does not include sleeping there. Some academy classes may take place departmentally, as some departments may be already teaching the same thing. This reduction may happen for the next scheduled class. He noted the next expected class may have more recruits which would result in a lottery.

Grievances – The Chief indicated three grievances were received.

Chairman McGrath asked for clarification on the written test. Chief Edo stated the written test is scheduled for May 17 at Jonathan Law High School, a date for the physical is still being sought. Commissioner Brennan inquired on the number of applicants. Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated at this time there were sixty-three applications received.

Commissioner Stein stated based on Chief Edo's comment regarding the three grievance that were filed he would like to make a motion to amend the agenda and add to new business item D move into executive session discussion regarding the new potential grievances.

Commissioners Stein and P. Smith made and seconded a motion to amend the agenda to include New Business: Item d. Executive Discussion regarding Grievances #22-01, #22-02 & #22-03 strategy negotiations regarding pending claims & litigation. Motions carried unanimously.

VIII. New Business:

- a) Dispatch Concern Form (Discussion): Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated a dispatch concern form was being created as a means to report errors or concerns as expressed by the safety committee. The form is being built into the Fire Manger software, that houses many other forms that are available, including but not limited to repair cards,

SCBA repairs and award nominations. He would take the complaint, see if it is justifiable by listening to the communication program he has available and move to determine another course of action. The form would be limited to officers as any issues should go through the chain of command. The form should be available by weeks end.

- b) Apparatus Preventative maintenance schedule: Assistant Chief Fabrizi has spoken to a local vendor for suggestions about routine maintenance to ensure safety of apparatus, besides the yearly DOT inspections that are required. He stated routine maintenance would keep an eye on the piece before costly repairs and safety issues become a concern. Chairman McGrath stated he would be happy to schedule a separate commission meeting for the presentation of a maintenance program. Commissioner Brennan identified safety and management as separate, stating maintenance is a management program.
- c) Executive Session Discussion (Grievance #18-004):
Commissioners Stein and R. Smith made and seconded a motion to enter into executive session. Motion carries unanimously.

Commissioner Stein request the chief and two assistant chiefs remain in attendance for the purpose of providing opinion or testimony.

The Commission, Chief Edo, Assistant Chief Fabrizi and Assistant Chief Waiksnoris enter into executive session at 19:01.

Commissioners Stein and R. Smith made and seconded a motion to exit executive session. Motion carries unanimously.

The Commission, Chief Edo, Assistant Chief Fabrizi and Assistant Chief Waiksnoris exit executive session at 19:22

Commissioner Stein noted no votes were taken in executive session.

- d) Executive Session Discussion (Grievances #22-01, #22-02, #22-03)
Commissioners Stein and P. Smith made and seconded a motion to enter into executive session. Motion carries unanimously.

Commissioner Stein request the chief and two assistant chiefs remain in attendance for the purpose of providing opinion or testimony.

The Commission, Chief Edo, Assistant Chief Fabrizi and Assistant Chief Waiksnoris go into executive session at 19:23.

Commissioners Stein and P. Smith made and seconded a motion to exit executive session. Motion carries unanimously.

The Commission, Chief Edo, Assistant Chief Fabrizi and Assistant Chief Waiksnoris exit executive session at 20:22

Commissioner Stein noted no votes were taken in executive session.

IX. **Unfinished Business:** None

X. **New Equipment:** None

XI. **Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:** None

XII. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners R. Smith and P Smith made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:07 Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Gloria Gouse UNAPPROVED SUBJECT TO CORRECTION