

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, April 20, 2021

I. Call to Order: Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 18:17 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Smith, Stein, and Brennan were present. Commission Weber was excused as he had contacted Chairman McGrath earlier. Also, present were Chief Edo, Assistant Chief Begley, Assistant Chief Fabrizi and Lieutenant Douglas Hannigan.

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

III. Consideration of Minutes: Regular Meeting – March 16, 2021

Commissioner Smith and Brennan made and second a motion to accept the minutes of the March 16, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented. Motions carried unanimously.

IV. Communications: None

V. Chairman's Report: Chairman McGrath thanked everyone in the department for the fire over the weekend and wished Firefighter Ramos well after his injury.

VI. Committees Report:

- a) Personnel Committee: None
- b) Maintenance & Equipment: None

VII. Chief's Report:

Budget Deliberations - The Chief stated the Board of Alderman budget deliberations went well, everyone was supportive and appreciative of the work the Fire Department does. He also mentioned his past requests for wage increases and the 2% increase that was requested for the upcoming year.

New Engine – The new Engine 4 is being built and expected sooner than anticipated as it is a replica of the newest Engine 7. The carbon copy has also kept the cost low.

Fire Station update – The Chief informed the Commission that one quote was received for solar electricity at the East Side station but after speaking with the Public Works Director more quotes are being sought. He also stated the concrete work had started at the West Side but the company working on the pot hole and front ramp were pulled off the project. He also stated the squad bay at headquarters is also in need of concrete repair.

Tower repair – The tower has been repaired and is back in service. The cost of the repair was paid by the insurance company.

VIII. New Business:

- a) Grievance 21-002: Chairman McGrath indicated to the grievance paperwork that was presented. Lieutenant Douglas Hannigan representing the Grievance Committee stated Fire Inspector Racheal Zickefoose pay rate changed from a higher rate on 2/26/21 to a lower rate on 3/9/2021. Chairman McGrath asked if she held two positions. Lieutenant Hannigan stated no. Commissioner Stein stated that the attached Personnel Action Form attached specified that Inspector Zickefoose's last day of work was 2/26/2021. Chief Edo indicated that the pay decrease was due to the fact that the 2/26/2021 pay was the last full pay of work as with any retirement as of Friday at 17:30 employment is complete and no further payment is due. He stated the pay that is less would be workers compensation. Once the pension board accepts a retirement and calculations after confirming a person is no longer able to work the former employee will receive pension retroactive to the day of your retirement. He also reference the most recent employee that was retired on a disability stated he did not receive his pension until approximately six months later. He also indicated that Inspector Zickefoose has not been on the Pension Board agenda and has not returned any of her paperwork.
- b) Grievance 21-003: Chairman McGrath indicated to the grievance paperwork that was presented. Lieutenant Douglas Hannigan stated the grievance is not against the Chief or Board but against the members of the safety committee. The grievance is in regards to the maintenance of the fleet and what the union is looking for is a response from the other members of the safety committee regarding the two emails as well as two phone calls sent to them in March. The safety committee is a committee of six members three from the union and three designated by the mayor that meet once monthly at Fire HQ. Chairman McGrath questioned whether the points of concern and letters were given to the Chief or Assistant Chiefs after receiving no response from the safety committee members. Commissioner Stein indicated that the meetings are mandatory per the contract and the collective bargaining agreement does not indicate the next step or time frame to resolve a matter. Lieutenant Hannigan stated the committee members would like any response and the grievance is due to being the only process that is available. Chief Edo stated the members have a right to ask for a response and indicated he has no idea what the letter states as he was not given anything from the committee members.

IX. Executive Session:

The Commission enters into executive session at 18:50.

The Public session continues at 19:40. No votes were taken during the executive session. It was indicated that additional information was required from both parties and Grievance 21-002 be tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting on May 18, 2021.

Commissioner Smith and Brennan made and second a motion to table grievance 21-002 until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Motions carried unanimously.

Commissioner Stein and Brennan made and second a motion to deny Grievance 21-003. Motions carried unanimously.

X. Unfinished Business: None

XI. New Equipment: None

XII. Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners: Commissioner Stein asked for new business on the next agenda be to explore the creation of a subcommittee for safety. Commissioner Brennan expressed his displeasure of the amount of reports that are received each month. He stated he understood it was a tough time for everyone but going forward would like to see more of what the department is doing.

XIII: Adjournment: *Commissioner Smith and Stein made and second a motion to adjourn at 19:50 hours. Motion carried unanimously.*

UNAPPROVED SUBJECT TO CORRECTION

Recorded by Gloria Gouse