

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, May 16, 2023

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 18:33 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Howard Stein, Richard Smith, William Brennan, Peter Smith, and Cassandra Soda were present. Also, present were Chief Douglas A. Edo, Assistant Chief Anthony Fabrizi, and Assistant Chief Christopher Waiksnoris

Absent: Commissioner Thomas Riso

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

None

- III. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2023

Commissioners P. Smith and R. Smith made and second a motion to accept the minutes of April 18, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

- IV. **Communications:**

Commissioner R. Smith read a letter of thanks from Brian Smith on behalf of his wife Elizabeth McMahon for the help received with the medical emergency on May 5, while shopping. He expressed his appreciation and noted the tremendous department Milford is known for.

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

Chairman McGrath stated the committee for dispatch is being formed, tentative dates for meetings will follow. Chairman McGrath explained the budget for the next fiscal year has increased by \$210,000, the amount may not be enough but the process is going in the right direction. He thanked Alderman Liaisons Parente and Giannattasio for their hard work on behalf of the department. Chairman McGrath thanked all the Alderman and the Chiefs who spoke in great length regarding the needs of the department. His position is

clear, the budget issues are a concern and was presented well during the hearing. Other options to be looked at is the EMS billing cap. The possibility to raise the cap will not affect the city budget but allow the department to use funds more than the \$500,000 limit. He asked Assistant Chief Fabrizi to explain the situation regarding the purchase of a new ambulance. Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated a new ambulance build is 750 days out, which is a two-year delivery date. The last ambulance purchased was three years ago and the fee was \$270,000. In addition to the two-year lead time the cost is \$380,000. The quint bid came in at 1.4 million which is \$160,000 lower than the highest bid that was received. He noted that E-One, a company that had the foresight to order five spec build trucks would cut the lead time helped in the selection. The wait time is one year for the new quint, the cost being 1.4 as opposed to 1.56. The cost increases have been astronomical. The need to increase the cap is a need for financial support due to rising costs. All the people he's spoke to in the apparatus field believe the costs will continue to remain high. The same vendor had a few Dodge 5500 on order. The department typically uses Ford F550 to keep the same equipment for compatibility's sake. Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated because there were only two Dodge ambulances available, he put in a letter of intent to hold that unit until an official contract is signed to be purchased. This will allow delivery in mid-2024, if one of those units were not excepted the wait will be the 750 days from the point of decision to order. He also informed the board that Quint 9 at Seemans Lane is set to go out for sealed bid. It should go out at the end of this week. The scrap value is about \$800, bids may come in lower than \$800. The city does reserve the right to not except any bids and take the scrap value. Commissioner Stein inquired about the request for donation. Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated that request has been put on hold per request of the commission.

Chairman McGrath wanted to recognize the recent promotions: Lieutenant Kevin Frank, Lieutenant Matthew Schumann, Lieutenant Justin Sansone, Lieutenant Erik Voroba, Captain Thomas Piskura, Captain Eric Mohr, Captain Jason Dombrowski, Captain David Tobias, Battalion Chief Peter Phelan, Battalion Chief Kye Wengenroth, Battalion Chief Adam Hansen and Battalion Chief Arthur Murphy.

VI. **Committee Reports:**

- a) Personnel Committee: Nothing to report.
- b) Maintenance Committee: Nothing to report.
- c) Safety Committee Liaison: Commissioner Brennan stated everything is being handled and there are no new concerns.

VII. **Chiefs Report:**

Budget – The \$210,000 received will increase the vacation relief account. A lot of time has been spent regarding the EMS revenue. He reiterated that the best option would be to increase the cap by \$100,000 to \$150,000. The money does rollover each fiscal year.
Current Recruit test – He is aware of 100 applications and believes the number to be

higher now. The written test is scheduled for May 31st.

Recruits – The recruits graduate on May 24th, all board members are invited to attend. All reports have the recruits at the top of the class.

Class #72 – Academy class #72 starts August 28th. After the testing process is complete, interviews will be conducted. There are currently 3 vacancies.

Quint 3 – Parts have been coming into the vendor, allowing for a quicker lead time. The goal is to have the truck by the end of June.

VIII. **New Business:**

None

IX. **Unfinished Business:**

- a) Disposal of Quint 9 - Chairman McGrath stated that Quint 9 will come back to the board regarding the final disposition.
- b) Tower 1 – Tower 1 has gone to a broker for a value to be put on the apparatus. Assistant Chief Fabrizi explained the vendor will provide a value and the department has the right to list it with that vendor for a commission fee when sold.

Chairman McGrath stated Tower 1 and Quint 9 will stay under unfinished business. Chief Edo expressed his opinion of donating Quint 9 to the local technical high school.

X. **New Equipment:**

Commissioner Brennan expressed his concern about one ambulance not being enough for the department's needs and putting a new box on an old truck may solve the problem of wait time. Chief Edo stated Medic 6 was purchased in that manner. Chairman McGrath believed the move to write the letter of intent was a good move. Chairman Stein believed there was a plan for a rolling stock purchase plan. Chairman McGrath stated that was in position, there was a five-year plan that did not include ambulances. He noted the last three ambulances were purchased with EMS revenue that department receives. Chairman McGrath explained how Covid impacted the plan. The goal is to bond for a new truck in January. Commissioner Stein noted if there was a vendor approved rolling stock contract it may elevated price increases. Committing to a vendor over five to seven years in advance to purchase apparatus may allow for a price freeze. Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated the components needed to build a truck are increasing, which in turn is having the manufacturer increase the cost to the customer. Commissioner Stein stated to commit to a vendor over a period would allow them to know in the next rotation they would be providing an apparatus or ambulance and meet the department's delivery time. He stated a clause can be added to except a reasonable industry percent increase yearly.

Commissioner P. Smith questioned if departments share bids. Assistant Chief Fabrizi

noted he has reached out to other departments inquiring about costs. Commissioner Brennan noted his personal business having the same cost issues with components from manufacturers.

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

Commissioner Brennan expressed his concern for incidents on Charles Island, indicated the time and stress on apparatus. He noted that Silvers Sands is state property and people enter it even when it is closed. Commissioner P. Smith agreed that the signage is not clear. The Chief will contact the state regarding signage.

XII. **Adjournment**

Commissioners R. Smith and Brennan made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:02. Motion carried unanimously.