

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, September 20, 2022

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 18:34 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Stein, Riso, R. Smith, Brennan, P. Smith and Soda were present. Also present was Chief Edo, Assistant Chief Fabrizi, Assistant Chief Waiksnoris, Alderman Liaison Michelle Parente and Battalion Chief Stephen Rabel

Absent: None

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

None

- III. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2022

Commissioner P. Smith stated he abstained from accepting the minutes of June 21, 2022, as he was not present at the previous meeting.

Commissioners Riso and R. Smith made and second a motion to accept the minutes of August 16, 2022, after the correction of P. Smith abstention. Motions carried unanimously.

- IV. **Communications:**

Commissioner R. Smith read several correspondences:

1. A thank you card from Peter with a gift of twenty dollars cash noting his appreciation for help back to his apartment.
2. An email from Alissa Gallagher regarding an MVA extrication, noting her thanks to all Milford Professionals including, the Fire Department, Police Department, and tow truck drivers.
3. An email from Stratford Fire Chief Jermaine Atkinson, thanking the Chief for the mutual aid response on 8/21/22. He stated the companies were highly motivated, competent, and presented a positive image of the fire service to Stratford residents.

Commissioners Stein and Riso made and second a motion to accept the twenty-dollar cash donation into the Good & Welfare account. Motions carried unanimously

V. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath welcomed Commissioner Parente; he hoped all had a great Memorial Day Holiday. Chairman McGrath extended his congratulations to Anthony Vital of Captain, Jeff Luciano to Captain, Martin Halprin and Stephen Rabel to Battalion Chiefs on their promotions and Battalion Chief Brian Colwell on his retirement. He also noted to keep Battalion Chief Kyle Brotherton and his family in their prayers on the loss of his wife Vicky. He noted the busy few weeks with all the calls.

VI. **Committees Report:**

- a) Personnel Committee: none
- b) Maintenance & Equipment: Commissioner Brennan stated the Tower is still waiting on parts.
- c) Safety Committee Liaison: Commissioner Brennan noted the difference between an operation issue and a safety issue.

VII. **Chief's Report:**

Testing Update – Chief Edo stated this was the first time implementing a Battalion Chiefs test, that produced the two new Battalion Chiefs. He stated it was a good test with an assessment center portion that recreated a day in the life of a Battalion Chief. Battalion Chief Rabel stated the test was very fair process; the same company will be used for the upcoming Lieutenants test. The Lieutenant's test is upcoming as stated, there is a sixty-day grace period for studying. Ten to twelve candidates will be testing.

Budget preparation – The Chief presented a shift list to the committee and noted all the vacancies, explaining why the budget is so strained. He also noted the income increases of some members as they are working to fill those vacancies. The goal is to get the vacancies filled by springtime. He noted due to two years of Covid illnesses and retirements, it has strained the budget as the positions must be filled contractually. Chief Edo stated for the capital budget Quint 3 should be replaced, due to its current life span consideration should be had for the time it will take to be built. Chairman McGrath stated there was a verbal commitment for a replacement apparatus. Chief Edo stated the number two request for the capital budget are roofs. He stated the roof leaks in many buildings and mold is present. Seemans land is the third request for updates and roofing. Commissioner P. Smith questioned the dollar amount for Seemans Lane. Chief Edo stated about \$800,000 is needed for repairs to the facility, he also requested over \$900,000 for a fire truck, the amount for roofs is pending quotes.

Recruits – Chief Edo stated the recruits are doing well with several platoon leaders. He noted how Milford has always produced top notch candidates.

News 12 interview – The Chief and the Mayor did an interview that will air on channel 12 regarding super storm Sandy. He also noted his promotion to Assistant Chief was around the same time as that storm, he also spoke on the knowledge learned from Hurricane Gloria.

Nelson Contract Update – The city has been reviewing the contract with Nelson, with slight changes. Commissioner P. Smith questioned if the Chief was satisfied with the contract. Chief Edo affirmed he was, he also stated the EMS Plan is in review. Commissioner Brennan asked if it was down to one ambulance and questioned the rates. Chief Edo stated the rates are set by the state and provided to the department. He also presented a synopsis of information regarding EMS collections. He did point out the major thing to notice would be the spike in medical supplies the department now must purchase. Chairman McGrath stated the information can be put on the agenda and discussed next month Chairman McGrath asked Assistant Chief Waiksnoris if there were any information regarding the purchase of medications from Yale. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris stated that he was told if we are billing, we should be supplying the medications. Commissioner P. Smith questioned if the billing company informs what is uncollected. Chief Edo stated yes, they do, and he will get that information. He believes the collection rate is 80%. Chairman McGrath thanked Chief Fabrizi for the informational template regarding incidents that is on social media. It will go out monthly. He also informed the board the clerical reorganization Chief Edo submitted was denied.

VIII. **New Business:** None

IX. **Unfinished Business:** None

- X. **New Equipment:** Chairman McGrath asked for an update on the current apparatus situation. Assistant Chief Fabrizi informed the board that both spares are currently out of service and being repaired. Squad 1 is also currently out of service and the crew is running out of a pickup truck due to no spares available. The challenges are due to apparatus getting beyond its service life, but the department is doing its best to keep all apparatus maintained. He also stated that DOT & ladder testing will be done soon.

- XI. **Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:** Commissioner P. Smith noted the letter that was sent from Ms. Gallagher regarding the extrication that happened right down the street from him. He wanted to comment on the Battalion Chief on scene who was quick to deploy the correct apparatus, making sure multiple medics were on scene. He also was impressed of the mutual aid cooperation between surrounding communities. Commissioner P. Smith also stated the Battalion Chief on scene made sure the individuals that helped during the accident were informed, it was impressive effort during a rainstorm.

XII. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners R. Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:00
Motion carried unanimously.