

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting

72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, May 18, 2021

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 18:05 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Smith, Stein, Weber, Brennan and Riso were present. Also, present were Chief Edo, and Assistant Chief Fabrizi.

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

None

- III. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – April 20, 2021

Commissioners Smith and Weber made and second a motion to accept the minutes of the April 20, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented. Motions carried unanimously.

- IV. **Communications:**

None

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

Chairman McGrath sent a letter on behalf of the Commission to the Chief of the New Haven Fire Department regarding the devastating loss they are experiencing. He expressed his thoughts and prayers to the fallen firefighter's family and the injured firefighters. Chairman McGrath congratulated the Fire Department on Yale New Haven Health - Bridgeport Hospital having recognized the Milford Fire Department as the 2020 EMS Service Provider of the Year.

- VI. **Committees Report:**

- a) Personnel Committee: Commissioner Stein stated the concerns will be raised under Chief's report.
- b) Maintenance & Equipment: Commissioner Brennan raised concerns regarding the maturity of Tower 1.

- VII. **Chief's Report:**

Local 944 Contract with Mayor - The Chief informed the Commission the contract has been finished. The city wanted to reduce the manpower, that being said manpower will remain at 25 due to Tower 1 being put out of service with a medic truck being run instead. Options for a new ladder or ascendant truck were discussed, as new buildings and heights should be a concern within the city.

New Chiefs Car – The Chief reported that the mayor had stated he would be able to get a new Car 1 and to contact him at the end of the month.

701 North St Project – The Building Department and architect were meet regarding a city project through the Fire Marshal Office. It was stated that all codes will be adhered to.

New Ambulance – A new ambulance has been ordered with EMS revenue funds. The goal was to have it in service by shift change but the arrival has been delayed until August. All medic trucks will be the same style Ford Horton Ambulance.

New Engine 4 – The new truck is now on its frame and will soon be available to view online.

New Haven FD – The Chief stated the New Haven Fire Department reached out to neighboring department to cover a twenty four hour shift. Their whole department will be attending the funeral. Milford will be down a unit, as it is sending a good crew to cover for New Haven; but the manpower will still be in place.

Recruit Testing – There will be a test run for the department with the goal of sending recruits to the academy for the fall. Chief Edo explained the current process of hiring. Commissioner Stein stated he would normally bring up concerns in the Personnel Sub Committee but he feels that the committee should be more involved in the selection process. The Fire Commission is the hiring authority as it states in Sec. 12 of the City Charter. He also stated how commissions in bordering cities are involved in the process and meetings were specific to the hiring process. This final process will allow members to interact with the future men or women who are going to create a career for the next twenty – twenty five years with the department.

Commissioners Stein and Weber made and second a motion to change the post offer hiring process to include an interview with the Chiefs and Board of Fire Commissioners entering into executive session to discuss candidates at special hiring meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Stein and Brennan made and second a motion to change the post offer hiring process application to include “The Board of Fire Commissioners is the hiring authority and shall interview and make conditional offers of employment. Candidates shall be considered in rank order.” Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. New Business:

- a) Safety Sub- Committee: Chairman McGrath brought up the concerns from Local 944 that came out of the last meeting. Commissioner McGrath suggested a committee member be at the Fire Safety Committee meetings as a liaison for the commission.

Commissioners Stein and Riso made and second a motion to nominate Commissioner Brennan attend the Safety Committee as a non-voting observer for the committee. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. Unfinished Business:

- a) Grievance 21-002: The board enters into executive session at 19:25 for the purpose of discussing Grievance 21-002. The public session continues at 19:35. It was noted that no votes were taken during the executive session. Chairman McGrath states he believes the grievance was going to be withdrawn. Commissioner Stein stated to comply with the time frame it should be denied.

Commissioners Stein and Brennan made and second a motion to deny Grievance 21-002 without prejudice. Commissioner Riso and Weber state they are abstaining as they were not in attendance. Motion carried with the two abstentions as noted above.

X. New Equipment:

Commissioner states that Assistant Chief Begley has been in contact with companies to get rid of the apparatus that is no longer in service. A discussion followed on the best uses or removal of old equipment.

XI. Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:

None.

XII. Adjournment:

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:40 Motion carried unanimously.