

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MILFORD, CONNECTICUT
JANUARY 16, 2007**

A meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on January 16, 2007 at Fire Headquarters.

Chief LaVecchia called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Thomas Riso, Carmen Corvino, Karen Craig, Richard Smith, Jr., John Healy, William Brennan and Howard Stein. Also present was Chief Louis LaVecchia and Assistant Chief Lee Cooke and Assistant Chief James Wilkinson.

2. Election of Officers

Commissioners' Healy and Smith nominated Thomas Riso, Jr. as Chairman, Carmen Corvino as Vice Chairperson and Karen Craig as Secretary.

Hearing no further nominations were closed.

Commissioners' Healy and Smith moved to accept the nominations as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief LaVecchia turned the meeting over to Chairman Riso.

3. Public Statements

Commissioner Healy welcomed the new Fire Commissioners, William Brennan and Howard Stein and welcomed them aboard.

Chairman Riso asked the Chief about packets and badges for the new Commissioners.

Commissioner Healy also asked for a contract for the Board members.

4. Approval of the Minutes

Commissioners' Corvino and Smith moved to accept the minutes of the December 19, 2006 meeting as presented. Motion carried 5 yes (Riso, Corvino, Craig, Smith, Healy) and 2 abstentions (Brennan and Stein).

5. Communications

Commissioner Craig read the following correspondence:

1. A letter from Chief LaVecchia to Captain R. Mohr accepting his resignation from the department's Dive Rescue Team and thanking him for his years as serving as Dive Master and dedication to the team.
2. A letter from Chief LaVecchia to Captain W. Healey accepting his resignation from the department's Technical Rescue team and thanking him for his years of service as the Coordinator and diligence in phasing in the equipment.
3. A letter to Chief LaVecchia from Alaina Pasay dated December 18, 2006 thanking the Chief and the department for the opportunity to intern with the Milford Fire Department.
4. A letter to Suzanne Vaughn, Department of Public Safety requesting the State certifies Assistant Chief James Wilkinson as Deputy Fire Marshal for the City of Milford.
5. A letter to Chief LaVecchia from Peter Spalthoff, Milford Celebrates Founder and Chairman thanking Assistant Chief Cooke and members of the department for the exceptional manner in which they assisted him and the Milford Celebrates event held December 31, 2006.
6. Fire Marshal/Inspector Pre-Certification that James P. Wilkinson has successfully completed the Fire Marshal/Inspector Pre-Certification Course as presented by the Office of State Fire Marshal.

Commissioner Corvino asked if the two resignations had been replaced to date.

Chief LaVecchia replied Lieutenant C. Zak and Firefighter G. Carman were serving a co-leadership on the Dive Rescue Team and that the Technical Rescue position had not been filed.

6. Committee Reports

Assistant Chief J. Wilkinson reported Tower 1 is out of service since late December. He explained that the rear suspension does not have springs but air bags. A faulty air bag had

been on back order and while waiting for the back order to come in one of the bags failed. The bag finally came in and was repaired along with other minor repairs being done at the same time. He also explained there was damage to the compartment door which was done at a recent State pump class. He stated the truck is back in Milford and due for some preventive maintenance. He also explained there was an unfortunate mishap in the repair shop wherein the Assistant Superintendent of Apparatus put windshield wiper fluid in the radiator. This has since been fixed.

He also reported Engine 7 was out on a run when the accelerator would not work and explained the electronics and the two components that failed. He stated that part was replaced and the truck is back in service. He reminded the Board of the truck the department received from the State. He stated the department's decon trailer is still with the state because of a warranty dispute between the State and the vendor, which they are attempting to work out. He also reported the department received a John Deere gator, which is a 4-wheel vehicle, from the State Homeland Security Grant. He stated the vehicle could be used for events such as the Oyster Festival or an incident on the beach. He explained the State will receive 5 hazmat trucks which will be distributed throughout the State and that they would like the Milford Fire Department to house and use this vehicles. He reported it is scheduled for delivery this summer sometime.

Commissioner Brennan asked about certified drivers.

Commissioner Stein asked if the truck being referred to is the one outside the station at Wheelers Farm Road. He also asked if there is another tower truck in Milford.

Chief LaVecchia replied he would explain during the Chief's report.

7. Chief's Report

Chief LaVecchia reported the January meeting of the New Haven County Fire Commissioners would be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2007 at Brazzi's in New Haven. He also reported there would be four (4) openings in the department by the time of the May 5 class. He stated he called the next individuals on the eligibility list and that one turned it down and one was not an EMT. He stated three individuals would be coming on Board prior to the start of the class.

Assistant Chief Wilkinson interjected and respectfully pointed out the next class is scheduled to begin on March 5, 2007.

Chief LaVecchia stated the new recruits would start February 26, 2007.

Commissioner Corvino asked if the individual gets the opportunity to go to class.

Chief LaVecchia explained if you are not an EMT at the time of the call you have two months to get into a class and four months to complete the class. He stated they would hold the spot for the next class.

Commissioner Healy asked when the next class would be held.

Chief LaVecchia responded it is usually in the summer.

Chief LaVecchia welcomed the new commissioners and proceeded to give a brief outline of the department and its history. He stated the department would host an open house at next month's scheduled meeting time. He stated other department heads from the City would be invited along with the members of the Board of Aldermen and Board of Finance.

Chairman Riso suggested a letter be sent to former Commissioner Griffin thanking him for his years of dedication to this Board. He pointed out he was a retired Chief from the Sikorsky Fire Department. Chairman Riso also reported he along with other members of the Board and Chief LaVecchia attended a Freedom of Information (FOIA) seminar conducted by CCM. He stated it was very informative and gave a brief overview.

Being no further business to discussion Commissioners' Smith and Craig moved to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Board Secretary