

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners' Conference Room
at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, January 19, 2016**

1. **Call to Order** : Chief Edo called the meeting to order at 19:17 hours. A quorum was present. It was noted that Recording Secretary Diane Stein was ill and could not attend. Commissioner Stein agreed to keep the minutes.

Roll Call: Commissioners McGrath, Brennan, Smith, Stein, Riso, Weber and Sanford were present. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo and Assistant Chiefs Gary Baker and Bernie Begley.

2. **Election of Officers**:

Commissioners Riso and Brennan made and seconded a motion nominating Commissioners McGrath, Stein and Smith as Board Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary, respectively. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman McGrath assumed control of the regularly scheduled meeting at 19:18 and introduced newly appointed Commissioner Greta Sanford to the Commissioners and those assembled.

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

Todd Ricci was recognized by the Chairman. FF Ricci introduced himself and FF A.J. Murphy to the Board. Mr. Ricci indicated that he was the new President of the Union and that Mr. Murphy was the new Union Secretary. Mr. Ricci further indicated that he was looking forward to working with the Board.

Chairman McGrath thanked Union President Ricci on behalf of the Commission.

4. **Consideration of Minutes**:

Regular Meeting – December 15, 2015

Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the December 15, 2015, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Sanford Abstaining as she was not present for the aforementioned meeting.

5. **Communications:**

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

- i) Chief Edo received a thank you email from Jennifer Kazakewich who wanted to recognize “Firefighter Rico of the New Haven Ave station” for the time spent and the tour he provided of the station to Ms. Kazakewich and her young daughter when they came to make a Toys for Tots donation on December 9.
- ii) A thank you email to Chief Edo from Colleen Safyre regarding an emergency response on 1/17/16 to her home for a medical emergency. She wanted to thank the “...the caller who took (her) 911 calls (twice) and the fire and EMS crews...”
- iii) Letter to Assistant Chief Baker from Lt. Colonel Warren Hyatt Jr., Commanding Officer, Connecticut State Police acknowledging receipt of Asst. Chief Baker’s letter to the State Police thanking them for the assistance of their dive team for the recovery of Marine 1.
- iv) Thank you card to Commissioner McGrath from Westside (Station 8) Quint 3 & Engine 4, D platoon for the “tray of goodies.”
- v) Thank you from Dr. Anita Kohli (Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Center, LLC.) for “all your help during our emergencies.” Enclosed was a donation check from Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Center, LLC. in the amount of \$50.00.

Commissioners Stein and Riso made and seconded a motion to accept the aforementioned donation and deposit it into the good and welfare fund. Motion carried unanimously

- vi) Letter to Chief Edo from retired firefighter Frank Rohrig thanking the Chief for the donated smoke detectors which he recently picked up at the station. Further, he wanted to note being impressed by the “new young firefighters” who he met during his visit.
- vii) Chief Edo read a communication to the Board from the family of Commissioner Smith thanking the department for “all you did for us” during their recent family loss. Enclosed was a donation check from The Seven Seas Restaurant and Pub in the amount of \$1,500.00 in memory of Neil Smith.

Commissioners Stein and Riso made and seconded a motion to accept the aforementioned donation in memory of Neil Smith and to deposit and use said donation at the discretion of the Chief of the Department. Motion carried unanimously

6. **Committees Reports:**

A) Personnel Committee:

Commissioner Stein reported that the committee met one time since the last board meeting. At that meeting, tentative dates were set for some components of the upcoming Entry Level Firefighters testing and hiring process.

Applications Accepted - April 1, 2016
Application Deadline - April 15, 2016
Written Test - April 27, 2016
Physical and Oral Tests – To be determined
List Established – To be determined
Recruit Orientation - August 15, 2016
Fire Academy Starts - August 29, 2016

Commissioner Stein indicated that the committee would be meeting again shortly to finalize the remaining components and hoped to have a full packet for the boards consideration at the February meeting.

7. **Chief's Report:**

New Engine / Medic Unit - Chief Edo reported that the City will be bonding 600K for new Engine 1 and 200K for new Medic Unit. We are still waiting on specs. Hope to have something within the next week or two. A number of vendors have shown interest in bidding on new Engine 1. Current refurbished medic unit is scheduled to be completed around April 1, 2016.

Boat - Chief Edo reported that Beacon Point Marina and our insurance company have worked out a price between them to totally refurbish Marine 1. This includes engine replacement. This does not include other department equipment and City property not physically part of the boat. This is still being examined by the insurance company. The boat was transported to Beacon Point Marina today and is expected to be completed in April.

Budget - Chief Edo reported that budget requests have been submitted to City Hall and the Boards of Aldermen and Finance. The Department is still waiting on final numbers. The Chief indicated that he will have budget packets for us at our next meeting.

CMED – Chief reported he attended meeting finalizing old CMED. He indicated that some money will be returned to the City's general fund from this dissolved entity.

Future Tests - The Lieutenant's test will be held on 1/27/16. The Fire Inspector Exam will be 2/22/16. There are currently 2 vacancies in the Fire Marshal's office. The Chief reported in response to a question last month that monies collected from the Entry Level Firefighters' Application process is deposited into a Fire Department Budget line item.

Commissioner Riso asked the Chief if the meeting between himself, Chief Baker and Police Chief Mello, that was requested by Chief Mello, occurred? Chief Edo indicated that no meeting took place. Chief Mello was unable to attend the scheduled meeting.

8. **New Business:**

A) Apparatus Report – Chairman McGrath indicated to the Board that he requested that the Chief complete an Apparatus Overview Report for this Board. The Chairman indicated that he thought it was important for the Board to get a overview as to the general age, mileage and state of repair of department vehicles so that we and the elected City Representative can anticipate future department needs. Finally, the Chairman indicated that he would be approaching members of the Commission to serve on a new Apparatus and Maintenance Committee. He will announce this new committee at our next meeting.

Chief Edo reported that the Apparatus Overview Report together with the attached Apparatus Status Report with photos was completed by Asst. Chief Begley and Superintendent of Apparatus Joe Widman. First, the Chief noted that there was an additional attachment to the report entitled Transaction Detail By Account that will be a part of the future budget report and addressed at that time. Chief Edo reported that the Apparatus Report speaks for itself. The fleet is aging and some of the primary response vehicles are showing serious frame rot and body corrosion. This can be attributed to snow melting products on the public roadways as well as vehicle exposure to salt water during storms and flooding. The Chief indicated that the department has had to repair apparatus where part of the vehicle have fallen out (Gas tank) due to support strap corrosion. The Chief circulated color photo of some of the aforementioned rot and corrosion noted in the report. Commissioner Brennan noted that frame rot/corrosion is not repairable per Federal D.O.T. regulations. Commissioner Sanford inquired how much more money a stainless steel chassis would cost on a new apparatus purchase? Chief Edo indicated he could not answer the question with any degree of certainty but felt the cost would be significant. The Chief indicated that some companies are now offering spray undercoating to minimize frame rot and corrosion. Vehicles with this undercoating would come with a warranty on the frame. Chief noted that Engines 1 and 6 are most in need of attention. Engine 1 is going to be replaced by new Engine 1 that could take a year to 18 months till its in-house. Engine 6 needs to be addressed next. The Chief reiterated to the Commissioners that we get 15 to 20 years or more out of a piece of apparatus. By example he noted that when current Engine 1 (2003 HME with 101,733 miles) is replace, it will become a backup to replace current backup engine 8. Engine 8 is a 1994 Spartan Engine with almost 225,000 miles on it. Old Engine 8 will be retired from service and sold or traded in. Chairman McGrath noted for the Commissioner that there is a table attached of all current apparatus year, make, equipment and mileage. This will be forward to City Hall and the elected Boards for short term and long term department needs. Commissioner Brennan expressed his opinion that the department should not get a demo since they made cheap. Chief Edo indicated that if the frames have the undercoating it might pay based on price and turn around time. The Chairman noted that all department cars, Haz-mat vehicles, Canteen truck are “getting up there and the Dive truck should have been replaced a year ago.” Commissioner Sanford asked if all department apparatus purchases have to be bonded? The Chief indicated yes. The Chairman thanked the Chief for his informative and detailed report and indicated that it would be forward to City Hall and the elected Boards.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

10. **New Equipment:**

None.

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

Commissioner Brennan commended the Union and the Department on their Toys For Tots drive. He indicated he was very impressed by what he saw.

12. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:50 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Taken by Commissioner Howard Stein
Typed by Recording Secretary Diane Stein