

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners Conference Room at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Call to Order: Chairman Riso called the meeting to order at 1903 hours. A quorum was present.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners Thomas Riso, John Healy, Karen Craig, Richard Smith, Howard Stein, Jonathan Bercham and William A. Brennan. Also present were Chief Louis A. LaVecchia, Assistant Chief Robert J. Healey, Assistant Chief Al Zingaro, and Firefighter David Tobias.

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

None.

3. Swearing In:

Firefighter David Tobias was sworn in.

4. Consideration of Minutes:

Regular Meeting - January 25, 2011

Commissioner Stein abstained from voting as he was not present at the last meeting. Commissioner Brennan noted a correction was needed, in that the new hire list had the names included along with the scores. Commissioner Bercham noted a correction on the spelling of his name. *Commissioners Smith and Healy made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the January 25, 2011, regular meeting as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.*

5. Communications:

None.

6. Committee Reports

Apparatus

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Assistant Chief Zingaro reported that Engine 3 was out for service, long term; and all other equipment is just in general maintenance. He also noted that Stratford had borrowed a truck for less than a week in the week prior.

East Side Fire Station Building Committee

Commissioner Healy informed the Commissioners that the Building Committee approved the station plans at their last meeting. The building that is presently on the site would be demolished on February 16th.

An ad was placed in the New Haven Register to potential bidders the prior Friday, and the plan drawings were available to potential bidders on February 14th. A mandatory pre-bid meeting would be held at Parsons Complex. The Committee would meet next on March 16th.

Commissioner Healy added that there is a 270-day construction period, which puts the project at completion in December, 2011.

Chairman Riso noted that on the site, there is a stone that says Fowler Farm, and requested it be saved and retained on the site for historical purposes. Commissioner Brennan assured him that could be accomplished.

7. Chief's Reports

Chief LaVecchia reported that the Department had received a FEMA grant to obtain air packs. The Board of Aldermen had approved the grant in the amount of \$57,945. He added that the Department would also be applying for a smoke trailer, with the City's share being \$10,319; but that amount would need to come from private donations. The Chief informed the Commissioners that the Mayor had approved a bond of \$715,000, with \$650,000 available to the Department for the purchase of a new Quint apparatus.

Assistant Chief Healey informed the Commissioners that an accident report on a recent accident including one of the trucks hasn't been completed yet. Chief LaVecchia further explained that the accident reports the Department completes are very basic and are used for filing insurance claims. Commissioner Healy inquired if in a case where there was property damage and/or injuries as the result of an accident, would the Department do its own investigation. The Chief responded by informing him that the insurance company offers training on accident investigation.

Commissioner Brennan made the suggestion that drivers of the long-wheel trucks would be better trained if they had CDL licenses, as opposed to the Q-licenses they get now.

8. Unfinished Business:

Swap time

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Chief LaVecchia reported that the program they are currently using for electronic swap time has been looked at by their IT department, who added some security measures. He is looking for another 30-day trial period for the program.

The Chief added that the current program only does swap time; the Department is looking into a full scheduling program that would better meet their needs.

9. New Business:

None.

10. Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:

Commissioner Brennan passed out to the Commissioners a fact-sheet based on 2010 call reports. He commented that the Battalion Chiefs' involvement seems to "be on the light side". He added that there seems to be no incentive after becoming Lieutenant to enhance positions, and that the Department should implement some higher-level testing.

Commissioner Healy commented that on Assistant Chief Healey's report, there were many unanswered question; i.e., Answered citizen complaint. Commissioner Healy requested that in future reports, a more detailed description be given, along with the end result of each issue/action.

Commissioner Healy also suggested that all reports be standardized within the Department.

11. Adjournment

Commissioners Smith and Craig made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 1935 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by C. Birney