

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioner's Conference Room
At Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, February 18, 2020**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:16 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Smith, Stein, Brennan, and Stanford were present. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo and Assistant Chiefs Bernie Begley and Anthony Fabrizi. Commissioner Weber was at another engagement and could not attend the meeting.

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

 Union President Jeff Luciano invited the Commissioners to the 7th Annual James Mattioli 5K Road Race on March 28, 2020. Start time is at 10:00 a.m. at fire headquarters ending back at Fowler Field.

 Commissioner Stanford wanted to recognize the department for its many accolades that she has recently seen for their bravery and for all the work that they do.

3. **Consideration of Minutes:**

 Regular Meeting – January 21, 2020

Commissioners Smith and Brennan made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the January 21, 2020, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications:**

 Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

- i. Thank you note from Dr. Ashley Dubuzinsky to Chief Edo for allowing her students who are part of a nursing assistant program with Foran High School to tour and explore the medical equipment and discuss the EMS side of the department. The doctor greatly appreciated the firefighters for taking their time to educate the students.
- ii. Thank you letter to Chief Edo from Tony Mallozzi expressing his appreciation to the firefighters who came to his aid in an incident on January 15, 2020. Their professionalism and attention to his needs were invaluable to him and his family.
- iii. A letter to Chief Edo from Gordon E. Parmalee communicating his step down as the coordinator of the Milford Fire Special Services Unit. He thanked the department for their support over the years and he expressed that it was an honor and a privilege to have been a part

of this department and then the “Dinosaur’s” for over 50 years. Enclosed with the letter to the Chief was a letter to the Milford Special Services Unit.

Chairman McGrath on behalf of the Commission will respond back to Mr. Parmalee.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman has been having many conversations with City Hall regarding the department budget. He will report further during the Chief’s report.

6. **Committees Reports:**

- a) Personnel Committee: Commissioner Stein had nothing to report.
- b) Maintenance & Equipment Committee: Commissioner Brennan had nothing to report.

7. **Chief's Report:**

Budget – The Chief reported to the Commissioners that shortly before the department was suppose to present its budget to the Board of Finance, he heard from the Mayor who told him (and other City Departments) that the department needs to cut \$200,000 to \$300,000 from its budget request. The Mayor indicated that due to reductions in state funding and increased health care costs, all departments would have their budget requests reduced. The Chief reminded the Commissioners that the department has been operating in a deficit and the modest increases that were originally discussed with City Hall would still make up for years of underfunding in some accounts. The Chairman indicated he thought that the City should have waited to see what moneys came from Hartford before stripping the department of these additional funds. Chairman McGrath noted that pulling these funds away from the department is a problem and will have a negative effect on the department greatly effecting department equipment and services. The Chief indicated that the department will be hit with another flat budget and he will be meeting with the Asst. Chiefs to examine where cuts can be made that have the smallest impact on the services the department provides to the city residents and visitors.

New Car 4 – New Car 4 has been received by the department. It is currently in the building and the chief invited Commissioners to examine the vehicle after the meeting. The Chief indicated that a representative of the vendor will be present to explain the features of the vehicle and to answer any questions. The Chief indicated that the Battalion Chiefs will be receiving training on the new vehicle this week and the new Car 4 should be in service soon.

New Engine Bid – The bids for the new engine have been received and they are all over the map. The Chief indicated that the Chiefs will be meeting to go over the various bids and analyze why some of them are so different. He believes that some of the bids may not have followed the specifications required by the department in it request. That may account for some of the lower bids.

New Ambulance – The department acquired a new ambulance which should be here any day. It's part of the new 3-year lease program.

The Chief also discussed the departments new portable radios. He indicated that the radios are currently being engraved with the departments name and that they are due in soon. There will be training on the new radios and then they will go into service.

8. **New Business:**

None.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

10. **New Equipment:**

The Chairman and the Chiefs will be looking at some numbers on the departments future equipment needs.

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

Commissioner Brennan inquired about moving the boat. Chief Fabrizi indicated that the department has been in discussions with NOAA about providing space at its location at the mouth of the harbor to accommodate both the Marine 1 and the Police Department boat. The representative of NOAA that has been talking with the department is optimistic that NOAA may be able to accommodate the City but the ultimate decision make for his agency is out of the State and is not due back in the area until October 2020. No final decision could be made to explore moving forward until this supervisor returns. Chief Fabrizi indicated that realistically, nothing will happen until possibly late 2021 or the beginning of the boating season in 2022.

12. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Brennan made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:32 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein