

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting  
Commissioners' Conference Room  
at Fire Headquarters  
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT  
Tuesday, March 22, 2016**

1. **Call to Order** : Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:12 hours. A quorum was present.

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

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

None.

3. **Consideration of Minutes**:

Regular Meeting – February 16, 2016  
*Commissioners Smith and Weber made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the February 16, 2016, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

4. **Communications**:

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

i) Thank you note to Chief Douglas Edo from the Board of Directors of the Rape Crisis Center thanking him for the donation toward the Indoor Golf Tournament.

5. **Committees Reports**:

A) Personnel Committee:

Chairman McGrath asked the Commissioners if they received and had a chance to review the prospective Entry Level Firefighter Application, Testing Battery, Schedule and other supporting paperwork that was in everyone's packets. He also indicated that 2 replacement pages were being handed out to the Commissioners to replace the existing pages 1 and 7. Chairman McGrath then called upon Commissioner Stein to report for the sub-committee.

Commissioner Stein report that the sub-committee which consisted of himself, Chairman McGrath, Commissioner Riso, Chief Edo and Asst. Chief's Baker and Begley met numerous times over the last few months to review and revise the Entry

Level Firefighter qualifications and application. Commissioner Stein pointed out the following highlights of the application:

- Applications will become available on April 1, 2016. They are available at Fire HQ or can be printed off the City's Website. Applications will be accepted during the indicated business hours at Fire Headquarters until 12:00pm (Noon) on Friday, April 15, 2016.
- Applicants must have a CPAT card issued within previous 24 months at the time of application and at the time of hire.
- Applicants must be certified EMTs at the time of application and at the time of hire.
- Milford residents will receive residency points. Applicants must provide a valid Driver's License containing their lawful Milford Address to receive these points.
- Applicants who have been Honorably Discharged from military service or currently active duty or reservist in the United States Military or National Guard, will receive military points by providing a copy of their active duty, Guard/Reserve Military Identification Card or a copy of their Military Discharge Form DD214 reflecting an Honorable Discharge.
- Written examination is tentatively set for April 27, 2016 and count for 35% of overall score.
- Oral Interviews are tentatively set for June 3, 4, 10 and 11, 2016 as needed and will count for 30% of the overall score.
- Physical Ability Test and Survive Swim are tentatively set for June 18, 2016 (Swim) and July 2 and 3, 2016 as needed. The Survive Swim is pass/fail. The Physical Ability Test will count for 30% of the overall score. Chairman McGrath noted that the Physical Ability Test and Survive Swim were being returned to the hiring process.
- The final list should be ready to be presented to the Commission at its regular July meeting scheduled for July 19, 2016.
- In-house recruit orientation should be able to begin on August 15, 2016.
- Recruits will start in the Fire Academy on August 29, 2016.

Commissioner Stein asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Brennan asked if the Department could select Certified Paramedics from the list? Commissioner Stein indicated that it is in the Application on page 3 and it is also in the Collective Bargaining Agreement if the need exists. Commissioner Stanford inquired how many positions were currently available? Chief Edo indicated that there are 4 current openings. Commissioner Weber asked how many applications did the department receive the last time the department ran a test? Chief Edo indicated that he believed there were 400 – 450 applications and that there were approximately 60 applicants who passed the tests. Commissioner Smith asked if there was an application fee? Commissioner Stein indicated that there was a \$100.00 application fee which could be waived based on filing fee waiver standards contained on pages 5 and 6 of the application packet. Commissioner Weber indicated that on the Authorization Page (Page 12), the "Department of Public Safety" has changed its name to the "Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection." Assistant Chief Baker indicated he would see that the form was changed to reflect the correct name.

Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a Motion to accept the Entry Level Firefighter Application, Testing Battery and Schedule and to permit the Chief of the Department to advertise and administer the same. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman McGrath thanked the members of the sub-committee for their time and commitment to this process.

## **6. Chief's Report:**

Testing Update - Chief Edo handed out the results of the Lieutenant's test and Fire Inspector Exam. Only one candidate passed the Fire Inspector Exam. There is still one unfilled opening in the Fire Marshal's Office that needs to be filled. The Chief added that notice has been given that the Department will be running the exam for the Assistant Superintendent of Apparatus position. The test will not be offered until the new fiscal year begins in July, 2016 due to a lack of available funds in the current budget year to offer another exam.

Commissioner Stanford inquired how the Lt. testing was scored based on the hand-outs. Chief Edo explained the process which comprises a raw score and additional points for seniority pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Hearing - Chief Edo indicated that earlier in the month there was a short EMS hearing in Hartford where additional evidence was offered. Supplemental legal briefs are now due to the fact finder by March 31, 2016. An updated decision could take an additional 90 days.

100th City Hall Event - Chief Edo reported that it was a great event and was well attended. He wanted to extend a thank you to Firefighters Jason Stacoffe and Jim Devico as well as other members of Quint 5 for "making the truck look great and for all of their time and effort towards this event."

Negotiations with L944 – The Chief informed the Commissioners that the local and the city have each notified the other of their desire to begin negotiations on a new collective bargaining agreement. Dates have not yet been set by the parties. Commissioner Stanford asked if the Commission could look at the Contract. Chief Edo indicated that he would get a copy of the current Agreement to those Commissioners that desired one.

Marine 1 - Assistant Chief Baker reported that the Marine is coming along well and should be finished up next week. At that time, they will begin sea trials. They have also installed a new remote notification system that will alert designated individuals if there is a problem on board the boat. Regarding Marine 1, Chairman McGrath noted that he spoke with Michael Amato, Commodore of the Milford Yacht Club about the possibility of moving Marine 1 to their location at the mouth of the harbor. This would provide much quicker response times to water emergencies. The Yacht Club took a vote and decided that they do not want Marine 1 on their premises. The Yacht Club feels that it would be too much of a disruption for weddings and/or other celebrations happening at the Club. Chairman McGrath reminded them this was

about shorting response times in critical emergencies potentially saving lives and not about inconveniencing parties. Chairman McGrath further stated that he is still talking with them but it is unlikely that they will change their position. Marine 1 will stay docked at Port Milford for now.

New Engine Bid - Assistant Chief Begley reported that the department received 4 bids for the new Engine 1. After careful review all of the proposals, the department will be going with the bid from Ferrara Fire Apparatus. Ferrara provided a very detailed bid containing all the specification requested by the Department. Additionally, it was the only bid that offered a lifetime/20 year warranty on frame corrosion as part of the base bid. Other bids didn't offer warranties at all, or as additional cost options or provided limited warranties that would be voided by exposure to chemicals or flood waters. Asst. Chief Begley reminded Commissioners that our fire apparatus are frequently called into service during hurricanes, nor-easters and other storm and/or flooding emergencies. Asst. Chief Begley passed out a hand-out on the dealer. Commissioner Brennan asked where the dealer was located. Asst. Chief Begley indicated the dealer was in Massachusetts. Asst. Chief Begley indicated that there was a pre-build meeting scheduled for next week and that the Engine would be delivered within 300 days after the pre-build meeting. Commissioner Riso thanked Asst. Chief Begley for a "job well done."

7. **New Business:**

None.

8. **Unfinished Business:**

A) Establish Equipment Committee:

Chairman McGrath indicated that the Commissioners are aware from the recent equipment report provided to the Commission several months ago that many of department's vehicles are aging or have already aged past their useful life as front line emergency response vehicles. The Chairman indicated that the commission needs a sub-committee to stay on top of the department's current and future equipment needs so that the entire Commission and City can plan accordingly. The Chairman asked for a motion to nominate Commissioner Brennan to chair this new sub-committee and for Commissioners Weber, Smith and Stanford to service on this new sub-committee.

Commissioners Riso and Stein made and seconded a Motion to nominate Commissioner Brennan to chair the new Equipment Sub-Committee and for Commissioners Weber, Smith and Stanford to service on this new Sub-Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

B) Asst. Superintendent of Apparatus Test

Commissioners Stein and Riso made and seconded a Motion to permit the Chief of the Department to offer and administer a test for Asst. Superintendent of Apparatus. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **New Equipment:**

None.

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

Chairman McGrath wanted to thank the Union and the department for the James Mattioli 5K race. “Kudos to everyone for putting it together. It was well attended.”

Commissioner Stanford commented on the 2 alarm fire over the weekend and noted what “a terrific job the department and fire personnel did.”

11. **Adjournment:**

*Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:59 hours. Motion carried unanimously.*

Recorded by Diane Stein.