

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

1. **Call to Order**: Vice-Chairman Stein called the meeting to order at 19:16 hours. A quorum was present. Commissioner Stein acting in lieu of Chairman McGrath noted that the date on the Agenda of April 17, 2016 was incorrect.

Roll Call: Commissioners 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 – March 22, 2016

Commissioner Stein noted an inaccuracy in the minutes. He indicated that in the Personnel Committee Report under Item 5, the reference to the Physical Fitness Test should reflect that it will count for 35% of the overall score and not 30%.

Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the March 22, 2016, Regular Meeting with the correction noted by Commissioner Stein. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications**:

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

- i) Thank you note to the Milford Fire Department for their participation in Jeff Pocock's father's funeral as well as a personal note to Chief Edo.
- ii) Thank you note to Chief Edo and the Fire Department from the condominium owners at Viscount Drive.
- iii) Thank you note to the Milford Fire Department from The Feher family including a \$100 donation.

Commissioner Stein and Riso made and seconded a Motion to deposit the aforementioned donation to the Good and Welfare Fund. Motion carried unanimously

5. **Committees Reports:**

A) Personnel Committee:

Commissioner Stein indicated that the Committee met to begin discussions regarding the up-coming collective bargaining negotiations. Commissioner Stein informed the Commissioners that the City and the Union will meet to establish preliminary ground rules on May 17th.

B) Maintenance & Equipment Committee

Commissioner Brennan indicated that the Committee did not meet since it was established at the last meeting. Commissioner Brennan expressed concern that the Committee as presently constructed with himself as Chairman and with Commissioners Weber, Smith and Stanford would constitute a quorum of the Board and, therefore, be a public meeting requiring the necessary Notices and Agenda. Commissioner Stein agreed and Commissioner Smith indicated that he would withdraw from the Committee. Commissioner Brennan indicated that he would contact Asst. Chief Begley to arrange a Committee meeting before our next meeting.

6. **Chief's Report:**

New Engine Bid - Assistant Chief Begley reported that the department met with Ferrara for a pre-build meeting and it is expected that the truck will hit their production line next week. The truck is to be delivered within 300 days of the pre-build meeting but Asst. Chief Begley indicated that the truck could be received as early as November. Commissioners could watch the truck being built on Ferrara's website. Asst. Chief Begley will get the information to the Commissioners.

Testing - Chief Edo reported there were 80 applicants for the entry level firefighter positions. The testing process is continuing. Commissioner Stanford asked how many openings were currently available. Chief Edo indicated that currently there were five and could be as many as seven by August. Commissioner Smith asked if there were any female applicants? Chief Edo indicated that there were a few female applicants. Chief Edo indicated that the Notices of the intent to test for open Fire Inspector positions and for Asst. Superintendent of Apparatus have been posted but that exams will not be held until the new budget year begins sometime in July.

Hearing - Chief Edo indicated that everything is status quo and we are still waiting for a decision from the Dept. of Public Health.

Negotiations with L944 - The Chief reiterated that the collective bargaining process has begun and that the parties are scheduled to meet on May 17, 2016.

Budget - The Department will be presenting its zero growth budget to the Board of Aldermen on May 11, 2016.

New Medic Unit – Chief Edo indicated that it's expected that the new medic unit would be delivered to the department next week. The radio has to come out of the loaner and installed in the new unit. Commissioner Stein indicated that this isn't a "new" medic unit rather a refurbished unit reminding the Board that it's the "old box" on a new chassis. Commissioner Brennan asked if it was worth trying to hold on to the loaner ambulance for possible future need.

Marine 1 - Assistant Chief Baker reported that Marine 1 is coming along and is a little behind schedule. Sea trials are beginning. Asst. Chief Baker discussed the recommended engine break-in period and told Commissioners that training would take place during sea-trials and during the engine break-in period.

7. **New Business:**

A) Swearing in/Awards Ceremony - No Report from Chairman McGrath. Commissioner Stein requested that this be tabled to Unfinished Business for the next regularly scheduled meeting. Commissioner Stanford asked how often do these occur and where do they take place? Commissioner Stein stated that there is no set schedule. The award ceremonies take place on an as needed basis and that they can occur during regularly scheduled meetings of the Board, at various firehouses around the City, as well as at City Hall for larger ceremonies.

8. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

9. **New Equipment:**

None.

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

Commissioner Stanford asked about the Fire Inspectors' Reports in the Commissioners' packets. She asked how locations were selected to be inspected? Chief Edo indicated that State Statute generally governs business and places that need to be inspected and the time frame for such inspections. He indicated that Asst. Chief/Fire Marshal Baker would be happy to go over it with her in greater detail.

Commissioner Weber asked if the number of applicants for the entry level firefighters position was low? Chief Edo indicated that it was a good manageable number to work with. Commissioner Stein indicated that it was incorrectly reported in the press that the department received approximately 300 applications in prior years. Chief Edo reported that he checked the last time an entry level exam was given and there were 192 applicants. Commissioner Brennan indicated that there were currently four other departments going through the hiring process right

now and that may account for lower numbers. Commissioner Stein also pointed out that valid CPAT and EMT certification at the time of application may also account for lower numbers. Commissioner Stein reminded the Board that the Personnel Committee determined the last time the test was given several of the top five candidates who completed the entire hiring testing process could not be hired because they did not have valid CPAT and/or EMT certification.

11. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Weber made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:40 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein.

