

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting Commissioners' Conference Room
at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, April 21, 2015**

1. **Call to Order**: Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:00 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: Commissioners Riso, Brennan, Smith and Stein were present. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo and Assistant Chief Gary Baker.

Commissioner Sanner arrived at 19:06.

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

None.

3. **Consideration of Minutes**:

Regular Meeting – March 17, 2015

Commissioners Riso and Stein made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the March 17, 2015, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications**:

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

a. A check from the City of Milford Health Department in the amount of \$325 for the Community Emergency Response Team ICS & Safety Training taught by the firefighters to the "Dinosaurs."

Commissioners Stein and Riso made and seconded a motion to deposit the aforementioned donation to the Canteen Truck. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Thank you letter from Donna and Sam Sutter to the Milford Fire Dept., specifically the paramedics who responded. Their quick response and calming reassurance of the incident with her husband was most appreciated.

c. Thank you letter from Mary Bradshaw to the Fire House for the fireman who were concerned and patient in providing services to her when she was not otherwise seeking medical attention.

d. A letter from the Mayor acknowledging a thank you letter from Regina Marone in which she thanked the members of the Westside Fire Station staff and specifically, teams Q3 and Medic2 for their medical assistance in her emergent situation.

e. John O'Brien came into the fire station to thank the firemen who assisted his wife in December. He was very grateful for their work.

f. A letter from Eric Munsell, Trainer, from the CT Fire Academy to Chief Edo acknowledging new recruit, Firefighter Hickey, for her extraordinary effort with her visit to the CREC Public Safety Academy and her inter-actions with students in this voluntary activity.

g. Thank you letter to Chief Edo from the students and teacher at Mathewson School, Room 8, for allowing Firefighters Rico and Jeff to visit and speak with the children about fire safety.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

Operations Sub-Committee – Chairman McGrath is looking to replace himself as Chairman of this subcommittee. He asked each Commissioner to consider whether they would be interested in taking on this position. This will be revisited in a future meeting.

Dinosaurs Follow-up - Chairman McGrath and Chief Edo met with the Dinosaurs at their last breakfast meeting. Chairman McGrath together with Chief Edo expressed the support of the Commission and the Department of the "Dinosaurs" in their roll of providing assistance. Chairman McGrath expressed that this is a most valuable resource for the City.

EMS Plan - Due to ongoing litigation he could not comment, however, he did want to express how proud he was to be part of the representation in Hartford over the course of two days of hearings. He couldn't have been more impressed with Chief Edo and Assistant Gary Baker and the reputation that Milford has as a department.

6. **Committee's Report:**

No Committee Reports

7. **Chief's Report:**

Chief Edo reported that the new Quint was outside and invited the Commission to come and take a look at it following the meeting. Radios has been installed as well as minimal shelving. He has requested recommendations from the crews assigned to the Eastside station where the truck will be housed regarding equipment needs and locations of equipment to be placed on the truck. Additionally, the department is waiting on manufacturing training on the new truck which is scheduled to start soon. This should be a several day process but may take up to a week.

Chief Edo informed the Commission that the three recruits currently in the academy were excelling. The injured recruit had returned to full duties and was working full time as a paramedic on Medic II. He will return to the Academy for the next class which begins on August 31, 2015.

Chief Edo reported that the old Quint 5 will now be designated as Quint 9 and will become a backup unit. He is considering touching up the paint to freshen it up. If done, it would be done in-house.

8. **New Business:**

Engine to replace Engine 1 – Engine 1 is the oldest engine in the fleet and will need to be replaced soon. The Chief approached the Chairman and requested that this issue be added to the agenda as a new business item so that the board can begin discussions on this matter. The Chief indicated that lead time is necessary so that we can get this in line with future city bonding needs. The Chief is going to begin the process of getting specs and prices together. This should take several months. He will return to the board at that time and present the information he has gathered. No action taken. Table to old business.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

Fire Chief Employment Contract

Chairman McGrath indicated that the Board was going to discuss the employment contract of Chief Edo which is due to expire on June 30, 2015. Chairman McGrath requested the Board move into executive session.

Commissioners Brennan and Stein made and seconded a motion to move into executive session to discuss the employment of a public officer or employee. Motion carried unanimously.

No individuals were invited by the board to present testimony or opinions.

The Board entered executive session at 19:20. Only members of the board were in attendance.

The Board invited Chief Edo into the executive session at 19:40.

The meeting was reopened to the public and Commissioners Riso and Smith formally made and seconded a motion to exit from Executive Session at 19:45. Motion carried unanimously.

Upon exiting from Executive Session it was noted that no votes were taken while in Executive Session.

Commissioners Stein and Riso made and seconded a motion as follows:

That Chairman McGrath be authorized to execute an employment contract on behalf of the Board of Fire Commissioners between the Board and Chief Edo by modifying an existing Agreement between the Board of Fire Commissioners and Douglas A. Edo, entitled Chief of the Fire Department for the City of Milford, acted on by the Board on July 1, 2013, subject to the following changes:

Page 1: THOMAS RISO, JR. CHAIRMAN BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS be changed to KEVIN McGRATH, CHAIRMAN BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Page 1: The date of July 1, 2013 be changed to April 21, 2015.

Page 2, Paragraph 1 change the term from two (2) years to five (5) years and further change the date from July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2015 to July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2020.

Page 7, Paragraph 16: Paragraph 16 should be removed and existing paragraphs 17 and 18 should be renumbered accordingly.

Page 8: Signature of the BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS should reflect the signature of KEVIN McGRATH, CHAIRMAN of the BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Commissioner Stein noted that Commissioners Riso, Brennan and himself were present during parts of the recent Melba Street fire. Commissioner Stein informed Chief Edo and Asst. Chief Baker that the Commissioners present at the scene were impressed by the overall coordinated department response and effort by each member of the Milford Fire Department from firefighter to command officers. Commissioner Stein further noted seeing the “Dinosaurs” moving down the fire line ensuring that crews remained hydrated. Commissioner Stein noted that he monitored early parts of the fire via radio communications and told Asst. Chief Baker that he thought some of his early tactical decisions were well made based on the rapid escalation of fire in original structure coupled with exposure concerns, strong shoreline winds and poor water supply issues.

11. **Adjournment:**

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

Recorded by Diane Stein.