

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners' Conference Room
at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, June 21, 2016**

1. **Call to Order**: Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:14 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to Chairman McGrath, Commissioners Stein, Brennan, Riso, Smith and Stanford were present. Also, present were 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 – May 18, 2016

Commissioners Brennan and Stanford made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2016, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications**:

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

a. Chris Ferraro, President and CEO of Ferrara Fire Apparatus, Inc., sent a thank you letter to Chief Edo along with the city of Milford and the Milford Fire Department for the purchase of the department's new fire apparatus which is in the process of being built.

b. Woodruff Family YMCA sent a thank you note to the Milford Fire Dept. for their participation in their 2016 Healthy Kids Day. They had over 450 attendees for the event.

c. An email from a local resident thanking Chief Edo and the Milford Fire Department's quick response to a CO detection in their residence. The responders' speed, skill, and professionalism were all top notch.

d. There was an article and photo in the local Patch newspaper on June 15, 2016 of members of the Milford Fire Dept. cutting the grass of a Vietnam War veteran after responding to a call.

e. The Milford Fire Dept. received a \$100 check from the Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 7788 with a notation indicating that it is to be used for the upcoming firework display. The Chairman noted that the Department does not have any affiliation with the fireworks display and that the check would be returned to the VFW so that it can be distributed to the appropriate party. Chief Edo stated that he would take care of it.

5. Chairman's Report:

We are still having meetings with City Hall regarding the ongoing DPH hearings and the Department's future needs for EMS. The Chairman reported that most of the month was spent dealing with the testing of candidates for the entry level firefighters positions.

6. Committees' Reports:

- a. Personnel Committee - Commissioner Stein had nothing to report.
- b. Maintenance & Equipment Committee - Commissioner Brennan indicated that discussions were had with regard to purchasing equipment for EMS and apparatus with Asst. Chief Begley.

7. Chief's Report:

Testing Update - Chief Edo reported that the last phase of the testing has been completed. The results of the physical were posted on-line today. Twelve candidates passed the three portions of the examination process and are eligible to be hired. Chief Edo passed out a spread sheet to the Commissioners for their review of the candidates. Chairman McGrath indicated on the eligibility list of twelve, three candidates are Milford residents and that the list is good for two years. Chief Edo stated that they were planning on sending five candidates to the Academy in August pending background checks. Commissioner Brennan asked if there were any paramedics on the list? The Chief indicated there was not. Commission Riso questioned why the list was so short and inquired whether the department could run out of candidates and whether there was a backup plan? Chief Edo stated that July 1st starts the new fiscal year and, if needed, they could run the fire test again if the department exhausts the list. Commissioner Riso stated he had never seen the hiring list so small. It was noted that two candidates did not pass the swim test. Of the other twenty-eight candidates, only twelve passed the physical portion of the testing. Chief Edo is hoping to send a second group of four or five to the Academy in February.

Hearing Update – AMR's latest appeal from the DPH ruling was heard in Hartford today. The DPH has ninety days from today to issue its ruling.

Negotiations Update - Ongoing.

8. New Business:

Commissioners Smith and Stanford made and seconded a motion to amend the agenda to add Board Review and Acceptance of the Milford Fire Department Firefighter Eligibility List to New Business. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman McGrath asked if there was any further comments or discussions regarding the Firefighter Eligibility List?

Commissioners Stanford and Riso made and seconded a motion to Accept the Milford Fire Department Firefighter Eligibility List as submitted to the Board. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Unfinished Business:

a. Swearing In/Awards Ceremony - Chairman McGrath stated that this has been delayed until the Fall and that the Commission will zero in on a date over the next couple of meetings.

10. New Equipment:

None.

11. Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:

Commissioner Stanford wanted to publicly recognize Lt. A.J. Murphy and Firefighters Eric Ouellette and Justin Edo for helping the local Veteran cut his grass Memorial Day weekend following a medical call. Commissioner Stanford thought that this was a remarkable thing for them to do. Chairman McGrath echoed the same.

Commissioner Riso noted that the department responded to 667 incidents last month. He reflected that this is a dramatic increase over the last few years. He recalls monthly responses in the 500 calls per month range. He expressed concern about the increase in calls and questioned the strain on manpower once we begin transporting medical calls. He also wanted to thank the fire department for their response to his house last week and for the care rendered to his wife.

Chairman McGrath questioned whether the commission needed to meet in July and August since the testing for the new recruits was completed earlier than expected. He suggested not meeting in July and keeping the August meeting on the schedule. Chairman McGrath stated that he would notify the City Clerk and that there would be no meeting for July.

Commissioners Riso and Sanford made and seconded a motion to forego the July meeting. Motion carried unanimously

Commission Smith told the Commission that he had attended the Volunteer Fireman's Memorial Service on the Green.

12. **Adjournment;**

Commissioners Smith and Stanford made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:35 hours. Motion carried unanimously.


Recorded by Diane Stein.