

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners Conference Room at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, August 21, 2012

Call to Order: Chairman Riso called the meeting to order at 1902 hours. A quorum was present.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners Thomas Riso, John Healy, Karen Craig, Kevin McGrath, Howard Stein, and William A. Brennan. Also present were Assistant Chief Robert Healey and Union President Michael Dunn.

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

None.

3. Swearing In:

None.

4. Consideration of Minutes:

Regular Meeting - July 17, 2012

Commissioners Healy and McGrath made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the July 17, 2012, regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Riso and Commissioner Stein abstained from voting as they were not present at the last meeting.

5. Communications:

- a. Letter from Michael Trank thanking members of the Rescue and Engine squads for coming to the aid of his wife.
- b. Thank-you letter from Tom Blascik thanking the Department for their assistance when he was stuck in his bathroom of his house. He included a \$20 donation check. *Commissioners Stein and McGrath made and seconded a motion to accept the donation check into the Good & Welfare Fund. Motion carried unanimously.*
- c. Letter from Bridgeport Fire Chief Brian Rooney to Chief LaVecchia, thanking the Milford Department for their assistance during a June 21st factory fire in Bridgeport.

6. Committee Reports

Apparatus

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Assistant Chief Healey reported that all the Department trucks are in service. Engine 9 has been decommissioned. The new Quint is currently being outfitted, and Car 1 is being serviced.

Commissioner Brennan inquired if Engine 9 would be traded in. Assistant Chief Healey stated the trade is on hold to wait for specifics on the warranty.

East Side Fire Station

Commissioner Healy reported that the station is expected to reach substantial completion by September 3rd. He noted that the station will not be totally complete until a few weeks subsequent to that. He said paving would be completed on August 22nd. The Magne Grip equipment was delivered this afternoon. The epoxy floor would be laid on August 27th. The apparatus bay has been lighted; UI has powered half of the building thus far. Commissioner Healy added that several issues in the kitchen had been resolved, and there are not many items on the punch list.

Commissioner Healy said that the Committee would meet next on September 5th and there would be a job-site meeting on August 30th. He informed the Commissioners that Judith Toohey had been elected as Chairman of the Dedication Committee, who have been meeting to discuss the dedication ceremony.

Commissioner Healy opened the floor to questions.

7. Chief's Report

Chairman Riso confirmed that all the Commissioners received a copy of Chief LaVecchia's report.

Commissioner Brennan inquired about the status of the new contract. Union President Dunn informed everyone present that at this point, the parties are at an impasse and the contract will be heading toward arbitration, but everyone is still talking. Chairman Riso inquired about the timeline of arbitration; Union President Dunn explained the process to the Commissioners and said the entire process can go on for three to four years in extreme cases.

Commissioner McGrath asked why candidates 10, 11, and 12 were no longer listed on the new-hire candidate list. Assistant Chief Healey stated that some have positions at other Departments. Commissioner Healy asked when the current list had been established; Assistant Chief Healey did not know. Commissioner Healy then asked how long after the list was compiled had the calls for open positions been placed. Assistant Chief Healey stated that candidates 1 through 4 had been hired by the Milford Department, and another candidate had also had another position already.

Commissioner Brennan asked Assistant Chief Healey about the EMS billing that was alluded to in his report. Assistant Chief Healey said that a book had been compiled regarding the EMS billing and had been presented to the City Attorney per request. He said he would keep the Commissioners informed about this issue.

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8. New Business

Commissioner McGrath stated that since he has been on the Commission, he reviewed the budget language of the Department. There is a clause that states the Department must request payment for any purchases over \$7,500 from first the Commission, then to the Board of Aldermen. He said that he has not seen that happen since January and it is a point of interest for him because there have been expenses that have gone through. Chairman Riso stated he does not have the answer at the moment because this issue has not come up. He suggested discussing this issue at the September meeting.

9. Unfinished Business:

Public Safety Answering Point 911 Center Consolidation

Assistant Chief Healey stated that the consolidation is moving forward. He said that vendor quotes have been requested to move the equipment over to the Police Department. Assistant Chief Healey reported that the Fire Department's CAD system is old and they are currently looking to see if the Police Department's system would be sufficient. He said the Fire Department will have six work stations in the consolidated center. Commissioner McGrath inquired of the timeline for the final transfer; Assistant Chief Healey said the Police Department's radio will be up and running in the fall. The Fire Department still has many loose ends and will give updates on this issue.

City Vehicles

Chairman Riso said there would be an updated report on this issue in the September meeting. Commissioner Healy said that Chief LaVecchia had indicated he would discuss this issue at the next meeting.

Rules and Regulations, Revision and Update

Chairman Riso said Chief LaVecchia would discuss this issue at the September meeting.

Scheduling Software

Assistant Chief Healey reported the swap time function works well. Chairman Riso commented that was good to hear.

10. Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:

Commissioner Stein commented that there had been a recording device on and recording during the entirety of the meeting. He added that all FOI regulations would be complied with as making a recording makes the audio of the meeting discoverable by the public. Chairman Riso stated he had not seen a recording device at any prior meeting. Commissioner Stein noted that the recording should be turned over to the Recording Secretary and kept on public record. Commissioner Healy stated that all compliance issues had been arranged prior to the start of the meeting.

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11. Adjournment

Commissioners Healy and Brennan made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 1922 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by C. Birney