

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners' Conference Room
at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, October 17, 2017**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:10 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Smith, Stein, Weber, Riso and Brennan were present. Commissioner Sanford was unable to attend. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo, Assistant Chief Gary Baker and Assistant Chief Bernie Begley

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

None.

3. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – September 19, 2017.

Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the September 19, 2017, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimousl

4. **Communications:**

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

- i) A letter from M.Sgt. Zachary Daniel to the Chief and the Milford Fire Department together with a Certificate from the 69th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron in honor of the City of Milford Fire Department and an American Flag that was flown on a B-52 on mission on 9/11/2017. M.Sgt. Zachary Daniel a member of the Milford Fire Dept. and wanted to express his gratitude to the department for its support for his present deployment in the Air Force. Chief Edo said that he was going to have the letter, certificate and flag framed and displayed within the stations. Chief Edo also expressed how proud he was of him.
- ii) A thank you letter from the Milford Prevention Council for the donation of a firetruck ride for their silent auction on Paint for Prevention Night.
- iii) An email from Robyn Teplizy to Firefighters Dan Wassmer, Brandon Marschner and their entire team for their attention and patience that was provided to her during a recent incident.

- iv) A note from Carole Boughton to the Chief expressing her thanks to the fireman that assisted her in a recent incident. She was unable to get his name but hoping the Chief could locate him and let him know how much he helped her.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

None.

6. **Committees Reports:**

- a) Personnel Committee: Commissioner Stein had nothing to report.
- b) Maintenance & Equipment Committee: Commissioner Brennan had nothing to report.

7. **Chief's Report:**

- i) Burn Trailer Training– The burn trailer training has been completed. All 4 shifts completed their training over the course of 5 days at the Seamans Lane property. The Chief said it was a phenomenal training experience.
- ii) Harbor Commission Meeting – Chief Edo reported that there have been ongoing discussions between the department, the Police Chief and the Milford Yacht Club regarding moving Marine 1 to the Yacht Club at the mouth of the harbor. The Yacht Club has been resistant to the move. The Fire and Police Chiefs as well as Chairman McGrath have been attempting to convince the Yacht Club that this is a public safety concern of paramount importance. The Yacht club has suggested that the City look to relocating Marine 1 across the harbor by purchasing a boat slip or, perhaps, purchasing a residence where they can park the boat. Chairman McGrath said that he is continuing to have discussions with the Chiefs and members of the Yacht Club on this issue and that purchasing a slip across the harbor, from an economic position, isn't a realistic solution. Commissioner Smith asked why the Yacht Club is resistant to having the Marine unit there? Chairman McGrath responded that the Yacht Club doesn't want the rescue boat interfering with their events. Chairman McGrath also expressed that all members of the Yacht Club do not feel this way. The Chairman insisted that Marine 1 needs to be there and that the critical nature of quick responses to the Sound has been borne out by the rescues performed by the department over the last few months. Chief Edo agreed.
- iii) Capital Improvement plan – Chief Edo is putting together a list of improvement needed at the stations. He should have a report by the end of next month. The City DPW is going to grind the West Side parking lot.
- iv) Budget Packet – The chief received the department's budget package today. The Mayor is requesting that the department hold the line with the 2018-2019 Budget. The Chief explained to the Commission that they held the line this budget year and that the budget was subsequently decreased by 2%. The Mayor told the Chief that the "hold the line

budget” was based on the final decrease budget and not the originally submitted budget. That is the flat budget the Mayor wants to see. The Chief stated that it is hard to operate without money.

- v) First Quarter Fiscal Year –The budget looks good for the first 3 months. The new work schedule is working nicely and overtime has been nice and consistent. The Chief noted that today is the one year anniversary of the implementation of the EMS transport System. He noted that the transition has been flawless. He couldn’t report on revenue because some money is still being collected and not available yet. He stated that 25% of the revenue goes to the department and is being used for supplies and technology.
- vi) Inspector Fees – The Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshal will meet with the Ordinance Committee to discuss charging fees for the Fire Marshal’s inspections. The department is going to submit a plan to the committee to pass onto the Alderman. Chairman McGrath indicated that this would bring additional revenue for the department.

8. **New Business:**

A) Fire Manager Review

Union President Todd Ricci, Asst. Chief Gary Baker and Chief Edo gave a presentation and answered questions on the new Fire Manager Program that the department has implemented.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

10. **New Equipment:**

None.

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

Commissioner Weber commented how impressed he was with the way fire headquarters looked all summer. He noted that he drove by often during the summer months and pointed out to the Chief that the front of the department looked good all summer long.

12. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:45 hours.
Motion carried unanimously.

Prepared by Recording Secretary Diane Stein