

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners Conference Room at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Call to Order: Chairman Riso called the meeting to order at 1904 hours. A quorum was present.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners Thomas Riso, John Healy, Karen Craig, William Brennan, Richard Smith, and Howard Stein. Also present were Chief Louis A. LaVecchia, Assistant Chief Robert J. Healey, Union President Paul Geer, and Union Vice President Todd Ricci.

Commissioner Jonathan Berchem was excused.

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

None.

3. Swearing In:

None.

4. Consideration of Minutes:

Regular Meeting – September 20, 2011

Special Meeting – October 6, 2011

Commissioners Healy and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the September 20, 2011, regular meeting and the October 6, 2011, special meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Communications:

- a. Thank-you note from J. Pinto to Chief Healey thanking the Department for their help in the 2011 Milford Oyster Festival.
- b. \$250 check for the Dinosaur Canteen Wagon from the Orange Volunteer Fire Department.
Commissioners Smith and Brennan made and seconded a motion to accept the \$250 check. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Letter to Chief LaVecchia from Jason Hall from the Milford Professional Firefighters Association asking for the Department's support in the upcoming Toys for Tots program.

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Commissioners Smith and Brennan made and seconded a motion to accept the Toys for Tots program. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Thank-you letter to Capt. Zach from Orange Police Chief Robert Gagne thanking the Department for the use of their portable radio system when Orange was experiencing malfunctions with their radio and telephone systems on October 11th and 12th.

6. Committee Reports

Apparatus

Assistant Chief Robert Healey reported that the Town of Stratford borrowed Engine 8 recently, Marine 2 is in the body shop resulting from a June incident, and Engine 7 and Tower 1 are out of service for miscellaneous maintenance and repairs.

East Side Fire Station Building Committee

Commissioner Healy reported that the road in front of the site has been dug to make the sanitary sewer connections. He said that the east and west side concrete floors have been poured, and the structural steel is scheduled to be delivered on Thursday, October 21st. He added that they continue to monitor the work being done as closely as possible, and they anticipate the pace of the project will pick up when the structural steel is installed.

7. Chief's Reports

Chief LaVecchia reported that FEMA had been utilizing the Commissioners Conference Room at Fire Headquarters in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene. He noted FEMA was exceptional to work with and covered the entire city.

The Chief informed the Commissioners the four new firefighter recruits are being monitored in the Academy and are doing well.

Chief LaVecchia mentioned the training division has implemented apparatus break-in skill books and they are working out very well. He added that more firefighters are “broken in” to the apparatus than before.

Chief LaVecchia said steel from the Twin Towers has been permanently mounted as a memorial at Station 7.

The Chief noted that during the last storm, it had become apparent that since Red Cross is no longer located in Milford, the emergency operation plans, i.e., shelter needs, should be revised. He said these shelter plans also include the day-to-day shelter needs of Milford citizens.

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The Chief reported that the Sutphin Corporation was the only bidder for the new Quint. The Chief commended Superintendent of Apparatus Dave Eisenhandler and Assistant Superintendent of Apparatus Joe Widman for their diligence and research. Chief LaVecchia also noted that the Sutphin Corporation had stated that a 450 hp engine and transmission would be adequate for the Department's needs; however, after researching the subject, the Department opted to upgrade to the heavy-duty motor. Commissioner Stein inquired if the issues the Department was having with the Sutphin Corporation had been worked out to the Chief's satisfaction; Chief LaVecchia informed him that the Sutphin Corporation would be giving \$10,000 to the Department for issues with the old Quint with the purchase of the new Quint and that all issues had been resolved to the Department's satisfaction.

8. Unfinished Business:

Special Leave (Swap Time)

Assistant Chief Healey informed the Commissioners that he has had contact with the programming company and progress has been made. He reported that the system should be up and running in the next couple of weeks.

9. New Business:

None.

10. Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:

None.

11. Adjournment

Commissioners Smith and Healy made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 1917 hours.
Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by C. Birney