

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting Commissioner's
Conference Room at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, October 20, 2015**

1. **Call to Order**: Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Brennan, Smith, Stein, Riso, Weber and Sanner were present. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo, Assistant Chiefs Gary Baker and Bernie Begley and Battalion Chief Anthony Fabrizi.

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

None.

3. **Consideration of Minutes**:

Regular Meeting - September 16, 2015

Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the September 16, 2015, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications**:

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

a. A thank you card to Chief Edo from the Jerolman family. The family wanted to express to the Chief that Ron Wetmore's life saving organ transplant would not have been possible without the support of the department.

b. Miscellaneous emails to the Chief from the Mayor and other City Officials thanking the department for sponsoring the "Hands for Life" program which took place last month.

c. A thank you letter from Verplanck Elementary School for continuing to allow Firefighter Raul Benavides-Espinal to observe September 11th as well as career day at Verplank Elementary where he was a student. He continues to inspire the students and the staff and is an integral part of our community.

d. A thank you letter to Milord Firefighter Local 944 from Steven Nardizzi, Chief Executive Officer of the Wounded Warrior Project thanking them for their generous gift of \$300.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath reported that most of his comments will arise under New Business. No other report.

6. **Committees Reports:**

Safety Committee: The Firefighter Candidate Fitness Test is ready from the outside consultants and a meeting will be scheduled for the Safety Committee to review it before the November Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.

7. **Chief's Report:**

Chief Edo reported that BC Chapman and FF Michael Dunn are running a ladder company operations training program with the Tower and Quints 3 and 5. All four shifts will receive training. So far, the program has been well received by the firemen.

Chief Edo reported that he and Asst. Chief Baker attended a class at the Fire Academy. He is pleased to report that all recruits are doing a tremendous job at the Academy.

Chief Edo reported that the vendor working on the ambulance refurb has still not begun work on the unit. The department had a meeting with the vendor to discuss the updated time frame and to address the department's needs regarding a temporary or loaner vehicle.

Chief Edo asked the Commission members to refer to the Flowchart in their package with regard to changes in job descriptions which will be incorporated into the revised Department Rules and Regulations that is currently being updated. The last time description changes were made was 2005. This needed to be revised and updated.

8. **New Business:**

Chairman McGrath indicated that going forward next month, the safety committee will be renamed the "Personnel Committee." The members of the committee will remain the same with Commissioners McGrath, Stein and Weber, however, Commissioner Stein will take over as Chairman of this renamed committee from Chairman McGrath.

Chairman McGrath reported that the grant the department applied for from the federal government to repower the Fire Rescue Boat and to replace aging Scuba Team equipment was denied. Chairman McGrath indicated that most of the federal grant money available through Homeland Security is being distributed to law enforcement agencies not to fire services. Chief Edo reported that the engines in the fire boat have a 10 year life expectancy and they are currently 9 years old with many marine operations hours on each of them. The estimated cost of repowering the boat is upwards of \$80,000. With the denial of this grant, the Chief expressed concern about the viability of the boat in the not too distant future. The Chief also indicated that the Scuba equipment is becoming outdated and in disrepair and additional divers are in need of equipment. Chief Edo said that there is only \$5,000 allocated in the budget for Scuba

maintenance which is insufficient to properly maintain the equipment let alone purchase new or updated equipment. Chairman McGrath indicated that he has been in contact with City Hall to let them know the departments' needs. Chairman McGrath has also requested assistance from Senator Slossberg to help ascertain if there are any other federal or state agencies where grant money may be available.

Chairman McGrath requested that the matter of the James Mattioli 5K Road Race which is attached to the report of BC Wetmore be added to the agenda under new business.

Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a motion to amend the Agenda to add the "James Mattioli 5K Road Race on March 19, 2016" to new business. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a motion to approve the departments participation in the "James Mattioli 5K Road Race on March 19, 2016." Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

EMS Update – Appeal process is under way. Chairman and the City are still very confident in a successful outcome. Chairman reported further discussions with various City officials and agencies about department's immediate needs to begin providing services when this issue is finally resolved.

Swearing-In/Awards – Committee to be reestablished. Expect to hold ceremony sometime in spring.

10. **New Equipment:**

New Engine 1: Bonding cycle with the City has been moved up. Chief Begley has been representing the department with potential vendors for a replacement to Engine 1. Current Engine 1 is almost 20 years old with over 100,000 miles on it. The department has received rough specs from potential vendors and expects to have more detail plans before the next meeting. Estimated cost is about \$625,000.

Further discussion regarding 2 additional ambulances for patient transport at approximately \$200,000 per ambulance to be requested in the City bonding package.

Asst. Chief Begley told the Commission that many of the trucks are beginning to show their age. He commented that many of the trucks have been treated and repaired for frame rot and are once again showing current signs of new weakening conditions. He is informing the Commission so that the Commission is aware of future equipment needs.

Commissioner Brennan suggested whether under carriages of truck could be powered washed occasionally at the Seemans Lane facility.

Chairman McGrath requested from the Chief a complete rolling stock inventory age, mileage, current condition, life expectancy, repair costs, etc. so that we can better predict department needs in the near future and further down the road.

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

None.

12. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:45 hours.
Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein.

