

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
At Eastside Station
980 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, October 20, 2020

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:15 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Smith, Stein, Riso, Brennan and Stanford were present. Also, present were Assistant Chiefs Begley and Fabrizi.

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

Milford FF Jason Stacoffe addressed the Board regarding their annual Toys for Tots Program for the upcoming season. He indicated that a written request was included in the communications.

3. **Consideration of Minutes:**

The September minutes were not included in the Commissioner's package and will have to be approved and accepted at next month's meeting.

4. **Communications:**

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

i A letter from the Milford Professional Firefighters Association Local 944 requesting permission from the board to approve the Union's solicitation for funds and toys for their annual Toys for Tots Holiday Program.

ii A letter and a \$50 donation to the MFD from Marianne Winters-Croffey in appreciation for the fire department's services to her family.

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to accept the above referenced donation of \$50 and deposit it into the "Good and Welfare" Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to approve the Union's request for its annual Toys for Tots Holiday Program. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

None.

6. **Committees Reports:**

- a) Personnel Committee: None
- b) Maintenance & Equipment Committee:

Commissioner Brennan expressed his concerns that the department currently only has two spare trucks. He then clarified that we really only have one spare truck because the other one has been used for parts. The one “available for service” spare truck is in really bad shape. He urged the department to consider immediately purchasing a new engine in addition to the new Engine 7 currently being manufactured. Commissioner Brennan offered his opinion that another new engine was a bigger necessity over replacing Tower 1. He feels that Tower 1 should be for special use calls only and the crew from the Tower should be reassigned to a 3rd full time ambulance since medical calls make up a substantial portion of the department’s request for service. Commissioner Brennan expressed his opinion that our lack of viable spares may require us to look outside the department to borrow another truck from another agency such as New Haven.

Chairman McGrath indicated that he has requested a meeting with the Mayor to address these concerns. His hope is that the Department can get another engine “into the hopper” as soon as possible.

7. **Chief's Report:**

New Engine Seven: Asst. Chief Begley updated the Board on the new engine which is being outfitted and should be delivered to Milford in December. Due to COVID the inspections of the engine cannot be done in person. Conference calls will take place with our online rep and then a physical inspection will occur at the local dealership.

Westside Fire Station Repairs: Kitchen, Ramp, Sidewalk

Asst. Chief Fabrizi reported that the Chief is having some much-needed repairs done at the Westside Station including a remodel of the original kitchen. The FD is also working with public works on the sidewalks and ramp. Commissioners McGrath and Riso both expressed that the public works department is dramatically understaffed and that the scheduling for the repairs has been difficult.

8. **New Business:**

None.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

East Side Station Heat - Chairman McGrath indicated to the Commissioners that he had a meeting with City Attorney Berchem pertaining to the Eastside Station heating and constructions issue raised at last month’s meeting. The Chairman indicated that he found out from the City Attorney that there is no money being held by the City from the performance bond.

Nevertheless, he and the Chiefs have been working on a plan to address these long overdue issues. Asst. Chief Fabrizi explained that a meeting took place with Public Work director Chris Saley and Tucker Mechanicals seeking solutions to the heating issue. Tucker Mechanicals has previously consulted to the City regarding this problem when it first materialized several years ago. A possible solution would be to add radiant heat ceiling tiles (30 units) throughout the building. These will run on electricity and be individually controlled at each installed location. Chris Saley thought that we might be able to offset the electrical cost by adding solar panels to the station. He is working on it and will report back to the department. The plan is to get one unit up and running as a test. If it works, then additional units and/or solar panels as needed. The overall ballpark cost will be between 15-20 thousand dollars.

10. **New Equipment:**

None.

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

None.

12. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Brennan made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:40 Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein