

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting**  
**72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT**  
**Tuesday, January 17, 2023**

- I. **Call to Order:** Chief Edo called the meeting to order at 18:36 hours. A quorum was present.

**Roll Call:** In addition to the Chief, Chairman McGrath, Commissioners Stein, Riso, R. Smith, Brennan, and P. Smith were present. Also, present were Alderman Liaison Michele Parente, Assistant Chief Fabrizi and Assistant Chief Waiksnoris

**Absent:** Commissioner Soda

- II. **Election of Officers:**

Chief Edo asked if there were any nominations for the Board Officers.

*Commissioners Riso and Brennan made and seconded a motion to nominate Commissioner McGrath as Board Chairman, Commissioner Stein as Board Vice-Chairman and Commissioner R. Smith as Board Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.*

Chairman McGrath took control of the meeting at 18:38. He thanked the board for the vote of confidence.

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

Jeff Maurutis, 25 Juniper Drive, asked why a Milford Fire Official was not selected as a part of the ARPA working group. Out of the \$29,000,000.00 of the American Rescue Plan Act the city received, \$411,000 or 1.4% was used for health and safety in the fire department. Mr. Maurutis stated the money received for communication equipment in the eighteen fire department vehicles, as well as the new stretchers awarded should have been funded with a budget increase. He noted the fire department budget has not increased but the call volume of the department has increased, the revenue generated by the department has increased, the wear and tear on equipment and apparatus has increased. As well the cost of EMS medications and EMS supplies. Mr. Maurutis stated the EMS stipend increase is an investment in the employees. What hasn't increased is the support from the mayor. Based on the ARPA allocated funds more importance was put on beautification and not essential services.

IV. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting December 20, 2022

Chief Edo commented, under unfinished business the comment. Chief Edo stated 55' is considered an ariel was said by Commissioner Stein. Commissioner Stein than noted his comment regarding the NFPA 1901 regulations was taken out of context, he then reread the definition of NFPA 1901. He also noted the comment 100' ladder is not for rescue it's for vertical extension for distance to flow water. Should have read, ladders used in Milford are used for master stream vertical extension.

*Commissioners P. Smith and Riso made and second a motion to accept the minutes of December 20, 2022, after the forementioned corrections are made. Motions carried unanimously.*

V. **Communications:**

Commissioner P. Smith read an email to Chief Edo from Megan Altomare of the Boys & Girls Club of Milford. Wishing the department, a happy holiday and new year. Thanking all for the continued support as a community partner. He also read a holiday card from Deborah DeCarvalho and family with a donation of \$35.

*Commissioner Stein and Riso made and second a motion to place the donate of \$35 to the Good and Welfare Fund. Motion carries unanimously.*

VI. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath requested a moment of silence for former Fire Commissioner Greta Stanford who passed away January 11.

He congratulated Commissioners Riso and R. Smith on their reappointments. Chairman McGrath indicated the numerous amounts of correspondence regarding the Toys for Tots program that he received, thanking Local 944 for the great job they do every year with the program. He referenced the 2022 response breakdowns that were in the packets this month. Malfunctions of alarms and calls which was high in volume, noting the current process for false alarms, siting several business' as repeat offenders. The chiefs will investigate the citations amending the ordinance if needed. Chairman McGrath will also be meeting with Assistant Chief Waiksnoris regarding more detailed EMS reports to be in the monthly packets.

VII. **Committee Reports:**

- a) Personnel Committee: Nothing to report.
- b) Maintenance Committee: Chairman McGrath asked Assistant Chief Fabrizi to elaborate on his report dated January 4. Chief Fabrizi informed the board that in addition to the matters in his monthly report additional repairs include Squad 1 transmission was serviced. Squad 1A had the battery recharged, Engine 4 had the right rear tire replaced. Engine 6 had its engine break repaired and diesel exhaust tank

replaced. Engine 7 compartment door was adjusted once again, a warranty repair is being sought for this. Engine 8 engine break repaired; Medic 3 had the rear tire repaired. Medic 4 leaning issues was repaired, as well as the check engine light. Hazmat 1 received full preventative maintenance and lights checked as well as the dive truck. These repairs have been completed in the last week and a half. The department is moving forward with the purchase of a new quint. Chief Fabrizi explained pricing and the cost saving if paid in full. The approximate build time is eighteen to twenty months. A committee is being formed and will meet with Sutphen.

- c) Safety Committee Liaison: Commissioner Brennan stated topics were hiring a mechanic which is being investigated as a firefighter may not have the skill set to be a mechanic. Station roof repairs were also discussed, which he noted was in the capital budget. Commissioner Brennan spoke of loose items in the cab being a hazard, as well as airpak concerns. Recruit training was also a topic regarding interruption with calls. Dispatch concerns were also discussed. Commissioner McGrath questioned the airpak status and grant process. Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated the department procured an outside agency to assist the department in securing the grant. The department will be very involved in the process. The grant will not only be airpaks but masks, RIT bags, SCBA compressors that are housed in stations. The grant writer fee is also written into the grant. Commissioner McGrath questioned dispatch concerns. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris stated all three chiefs meet with police department personnel expressing the concerns with the CAD system. Training was requested, there has been no resolve at this time besides online references. He noted how easily it is to change response codes and the struggle to get the repairs done, as there is currently no one trained. There are currently 157 dispatch problems with the CAD system. The goal is to have the system to work for both departments. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris noted only two cities use the program in Connecticut. Blocking issues in dispatch were also discussed, as well as disciplinary procedures. Chairman McGrath will arrange a meeting with all parties, to try to find a resolve to all issues and concerns with the system and training in the joint PSAP. Commissioner P. Smith questioned the Central Square system and the dispatch concerns. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris noted that the program was designed for police and the fire module was added as a secondary component. He also noted the dispatch concerns are a major safety issue, a dispatch supervisor is needed for both police and fire, as they are both in the same room. Chairman McGrath questioned the dispatch concern forms. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris stated when a form is received it is read, he will then go through the tapes and see if it is an actual concern. He has reached out to other towns and how they react to dispatch concerns. Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated the Central Square product is designed and optimized for police department use and the fire side comes in as an afterthought and it does not meet the fire department needs. There is a newer version of the mobile application that can be used. The only way to resolve the issues is to remote into the MDT's on apparatus, an internet connection is needed which is not allowed as it compromises the two way connection for PD. Liabilities are involved, leaving firefighters and the people the department serves vulnerable. It is not a product that works well for fire dispatchers or fire personnel. Commissioner P. Smith inquired if the response for schools was fixed and if there was a consultant available. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris stated it has not been fixed and dispatch must now manually enter a response unit, he knows of no consultant.

VIII. **Chiefs Report:**

New Recruits – Chief Edo stated that six out of the seven candidates excepted the firefighter position. They start inhouse training February 14, with a graduation date from the academy of May 24.

Academy Update – The tallies are being done and the department will know shortly if there will be a lottery system for spaces, with seventy being the benchmark number. He noted the last class was a group of 68.

Lieutenant Exam – The exam has been completed, ten people tested with six passing the written portion. After the assessment process two firefighters were promoted to Lieutenant.

Year End Summary – The year end summary provided in the commissioner packets.

IX. **New Business:**

None

IX. **Unfinished Business:**

- a) Tower 1 – Chairman McGrath questioned the possibility of any trade in value for the tower. Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated that it is still in the works, but he is not very optimistic considering the cost for repair. Chairman McGrath will still leave the tower under unfinished business for next month.

X. **New Equipment:**

The paperwork for the new quint was sent to finance. The bid specs will be included in the request for proposal, any vendor can provide a proposal. The tower will be part of the discussion when talking to vendors. The pricing increase in mid-March was also noted.

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

Commissioner P. Smith stated his appreciation to Battalion Chiefs Brotherton and Zak on providing the platoon data, with the current Battalion Chief vacancies. He noted Battalion Chief Halprin's great job with social media, allowing the public to understand what the department does and the amount of EMS work that is involved. Commissioner P. Smith also acknowledged Battalion Chief Rabel EMS reports, stating they are very helpful for collecting more data, as his position as a commissioner is recent. Chief Edo acknowledged Local 944 and their social media page and the beautiful table that was build by shift B with an old hose rack.

XII. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:30 Motion carried unanimously.