

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners' Conference Room
at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, December 15, 2015**

1. **Call to Order**: Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:02 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Brennan, Smith, Stein, Riso and Weber were present. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo and Assistant Chiefs Gary Baker and Bernie Begley. Commissioner Sanner was not present.

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

None.

Commissioners Stein and Riso made and seconded a motion to re-order the agenda bringing Item 8B ("New Business, Union Presentation") forward. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **New Business**:
B) Union Presentation

Mike Dunn, Union President informed the board of his anticipated retirement. He also informed the board that the Union has elected former Union Vice-President, Todd Ricci, as its new President effective January 1, 2016. He thanked the Board for their continued support of the Union and the opportunity to communicate and present the Union's concerns over his tenure as Union President.

Chairman McGrath thanked Union President, Michael Dunn for his time and commitment as Union President on behalf of the Commission.

3. **Consideration of Minutes**:

Regular Meeting - November 17, 2015

Commissioners Smith and Weber made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the November 17, 2015, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications**:

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

- i) Chief Edo received a thank you letter from Megan Altomare, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Milford for the department's continued support of their Fifth Annual Festival of Pumpkins on the Pier.
- ii) A thank you letter to Chief Edo from a Milford family regarding an emergency response on 11/20/15 who wanted to thank and complement the personnel on Medic 2 and Engine 7 for providing excellent service at a time of unforeseen circumstances.
- iii) A thank you letter from Mayor Blake to Chief Edo for escorting his family at the Inauguration Ceremony and his appreciation to the Milford Fire Department's Honor Guard.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath expressed best wishes to the fire personnel and their families for the upcoming Holiday Season on behalf of the Commission.

Chairman McGrath welcomed recent Fire Academy graduates, Justin Wetmore, Justin Sansone and Michael Plavcan to the Milford Fire Department.

6. **Committees Reports:**

A) Personnel Committee:

Chairman McGrath thanked Commissioners Stein and Weber as well as the Chiefs for their input which started this past Spring in preparing the Firefighter Candidate Fitness Test. A packet was passed out to all attendees at the meeting which Commissioner McGrath stated had been approved by the City attorney. Commissioner McGrath also wanted to thank the two outside consultants, Richard Wiedl and Eric Scibek for their time and contribution to the preparation of the distributed documents. Chairman McGrath indicated that these consultants will also be involved in the testing process. The meeting was then turned over to Commissioner Stein to discuss each portion of the test with the Board.

Commissioner Stein informed the Commission that the Personnel Sub-committee consisted of the Chairman, himself, Commissioner Weber, Chief Edo and Asst. Chief's Baker and Begley. He informed the commission that the sub-committee met numerous times since its formation. Consultants Richard Wiedl and Eric Scibek were retained by the Department for the purpose of assisting the committee. Mr. Wiedl was the original consultant used by the Department to author and implement the Firefighter Candidate Fitness Test. Mr. Scibek is a Clinical Assistant Professor at Sacred Heart University with a B.S. Degree in Exercise Science and a Master's Degree in Health and Science Studies.

Commissioner Stein briefly reviewed the origin, history, implementation, application and termination of the original Firefighter Candidate Fitness Test. A copy of the test (as to each gender) as it existed when last implemented in 2011 was provided to each Commissioner as part of the handout. Commissioner Stein reviewed the sub-committee's introduction, purpose and recommendations regarding the re-implementation of the Firefighter Candidate Fitness Test that was distributed in the packets. Commissioner Stein noted that the consultants made

recommendations to the sub-committee pertaining to the recommended and revised testing battery contained in the handout. Commissioner Stein further noted that all tests contained in the recommended testing battery together with the gender based scoring were the work product of the consultants based on the sources noted in the handouts. Commissioner Stein then reviewed each of the recommended tests contained in the handout with the Commissioners.

Commissioners Stein and Brennan made and seconded a motion to accept and implement the foregoing Firefighter Candidate Fitness Test (2016 Version) as distributed, reviewed and presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Riso offered his appreciation to the sub-committee for the time, effort, and diligence expended by the committee.

7. Chief's Report:

New Engine - Chief Edo reported that the cost to replace Engine 1 will be approximately \$625,000. Chairman McGrath reminded the Chief that the vote has to come before the commission in January. The City will be presenting a bonding package in February to the Board of Alderman.

Boat - Chief Edo reported that Marine 1 is a total gut. The hull is in good shape. It is unknown at this time why the boat sunk and that there are still ongoing investigations. He also informed the Commission that there is insurance to cover the loss.

Budget - Chief Edo reported that he met with the Mayor and the department's budget is status quo. The budget will remain the same as last year.

Recruit Graduation – Milford Firefighter Maureen Hickey, last Fire Academy class recipient of the “Hard Charger Award,” recently presented a tremendous speech to the current graduating class. She also presented this class’ Hard Charger Award to Milford Fire recruit, Justin Sansone. Chief Edo expressed how proud he was that another Milford recruit was recognized for this prestigious award.

Retirement Dinner - Chief Edo reported that it was well attended and a good time was had by all. They may be looking for a new venue for future dinners.

Assistant Superintendent of Apparatus Test - The test was administered and one candidate passed and Firefighter Scott Moran accepted the position.

Future Tests - The Lieutenant’s test will be held on 1/27/16. They will also be running another test as quickly as possible for the Fire Inspector Exam as the first class begins in April. Mike Geanacopoulos is leaving the department to begin a new job with the ATF which leaves an opening in the Fire Marshall's Office.

8. **New Business:**

A) **Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting Schedule for 2016**

Chairman McGrath discussed a time change for the upcoming meetings in 2016. He requested a time change from 7:00 to 7:15 and asked for a vote so that the Chief could submit the 2016 Meeting Schedule to the City.

Commissioners Riso and Smith made and seconded a motion to change the time of the Board of Fire Commissioner's Meetings in 2016 from 7:00 p.m to 7:15 p.m.. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

10. **New Equipment:**

None.

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

Chairman McGrath thanked the Recording Secretary for her support throughout the year.

12. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:00 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Diane Stein", is written below the text "Recorded by Diane Stein".