

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Chairman Riso and P. Smith made a motion to reorder the agenda prior to roll call to accommodate the schedules of the individuals involved in the Civilian Award. Motion carried unanimously.

- I. **Civilian Award:** Chairman McGrath stated it is very rare that the commission gets to do something nice, and tonight is that night. Chief Edo explained on the afternoon of November 23, 2022, some of the kids from East Shore Middle School were hanging out at Subway 1667 New Haven Ave. as they often do. They typically go there and buy snacks, on this day Taylor bought a gumball, minutes after he was eating the gumball, he realized the gumball was lodged in his throat. He went to the counter and motioned that he was choking. Jesse Rembert noticed instantly what was happening and sprung into action and did the hymlick maneuver and it became dislodged on the second attempt. For this action and this reason, the Milford Fire Department Board of Fire Commission would like to acknowledge the action taken by Jesse Rembert as the recipient of the Civilian Award. Chairman McGrath stated on behalf of the Milford Fire Commission it is a distinct honor and privileged to present a plaque to Jesse Rembert as the recipient of the Civilian Award for the outstanding service performed on that day.
- II. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 18:14 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Stein, R. Smith, Brennan, Riso and P. Smith were present. Also present was Chief Edo, Assistant Chief Fabrizi, and Assistant Chief Waiksnoris

Absent: Commissioner Soda

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

None

- IV. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2022

Commissioner Stein abstained from voting as he was not in attendance at the November meeting.

Commissioners P. Smith and R. Smith made and second a motion to accept the minutes of November 15, 2022. Motion carries with the forementioned abstention.

V. **Communications:**

Commissioner R. Smith read a note from Helen Fisher of Swanson Crescent stating her over due thank you from an incident at her home on July 13. Ms. Fisher expressed her gratitude for the compassionate and professional care she received.

VI. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath stated he hoped photos of the civilian award will go out on social media. He stated he has visited the new recruits during orientation and extends his appreciation to all involved in the training of the new members. Chairman McGrath also acknowledged the departments efforts and all involved during the train accident. On behalf of the Commission he thanks all members involved with that incident as well as the murder scene. He also thanked the paramedics for their understanding and recognizes the three Chiefs for their efforts behind the scenes to make the new retainer possible. Chairman McGrath stated he would be working with Chief Waiksnoris after the new year regarding more detailed reports. He wished the department and all personnel a happy holiday season. Chairman McGrath extended a thank you for the continued hard work and professionalism given by all members.

VII. **Committees Report:**

- a) Personnel Committee: Chairman McGrath stated interviews have been done with eight people. He considered the candidates outstanding, they will go to the academy pending background checks.
- b) Maintenance & Equipment: Commissioner Brennan informed the board the Tower is still having issues and will be discussed under unfinished business.
- c) Safety Committee Liaison: Commissioner Brennan stated there were no outstanding issues that concerned the commission.

VIII. **Chief's Report:**

Chief Edo stated he would run a query for the end of the year indicating the number of Incidents that were responded to for the next meeting.

Recruit graduation – The recruit graduation went well, he attended with Chairman McGrath and Commissioner Riso. Out of the sixty-nine graduate all ten recruits were at the top of the class and one won the instructor award.

Retirement dinner – Chief Edo stated three out of the seven recent retirees attended the dinner. All had a great time.

Budget – There was a 3% increase in the budget for next year. Some advances were made in overtime; and educational stipends. Positions are slowly being filled; the goal is to have a full slate by July 1, which will cut down on the numbers.

Paramedic bonus – Chief Edo stated the increase in the bonus which will now be \$13,000 for paramedics and \$15,000 if you are on an ambulance. He was proud to say that the sizable increase is the largest in Connecticut. There are now nineteen paramedics in the

department. The MOU is being worked on. Chairman McGrath again thanked everyone behind the scenes for their efforts, stating he will want to infer with personnel to have dialogue with the chiefs as a committee when hiring. Commissioner P. Smith thanked all involved for their efforts, stating it is a great number, as the department members work hard and deserve it.

Capital improvements – Chief Edo stated the 5-year plan has been received with 23-24 having a fire truck. Quotes have been received with expected increases if an agreement is not signed. He noted the different options in payment plans (no money down, some up front, etc.). New roofs for all buildings will be in July 2024, He stated the buildings cannot wait that long for new roofs. He will investigate the city building maintenance fund. Chairman McGrath asked if the department could piggyback off the city roof projects. Commissioner P. Smith inquired about state funding for the training center at Seemans Lane.

IX. New Business:

2023 Fire Commissioner Schedule was presented to the board. Chairman McGrath noted the August 2023 meeting may or may not happen depending on the workload.

Commissioners P. Smith and Riso made and second a motion to accept the 2023 meeting schedule of the Fire Commission. Motion carries unanimously.

X. Unfinished Business:

Assistant Chief Fabrizi informed the board that under his normal report, apparatus breakdown; Medic 2, 4, & 6 are all repaired and back in service. Quint 3 was found to have a leak in its waterway, repairs are scheduled. Chief Fabrizi informed the board that Tower 1 needs further repair. Tower 1 vendor provided a breakdown of the findings as it was serviced. The rear brakes were done, and a host of other repairs were completed, during this a piston broke. If one piston fails, does that mean all are worn out or just the one that failed. The cost is \$42,000 to replace all eight pistons. The frame flex is damaged, meaning an extensive repair on top of the \$13,00 already spent. The quote to remove the chassis was \$192,000, which is cost prohibited at this point. The value on a trade in for a new quint might be an option that is in the works to discuss with a vendor. Commissioner McGrath stated up to this point \$13,000 has been spent, he believes the department is at a crossroads and as a commission must formally decide to repair the tower or not. He questioned the alternative if the tower is away and the chiefs' positions on the matter. Commissioner Stein noted the tower has been out of service for some time. Commissioner Brennan stated one problem is the number of miles on the tower. He noted the 85,000 miles on the apparatus for running ambulance, staffing issues and NFPA standards regarding aerial dives. Commissioner Brennan stated the tower is a rescue tool and there are several places to reach in Milford, even with mutual aid. He further stated the commission needs to but real thought regarding a 75' versus a 100' apparatus so no mistakes are made. Commissioner Stein questioned the ISO ramifications without a ladder on some piece of aerial apparatus, which may affect insurance classifications. Chairman McGrath questioned if any answers were available. Chief Edo stated 55' is considered an ariel he doesn't think NFPA requires a 75'. He further stated most buildings built today are sprinklered which may decrease the need for a tower. Chief Edo stated he has been employed for forty-two years, drove the tower and used it maybe ten times. He feels there is no need for a 100' but that could just be his opinion. Commissioner Stein referenced NFPA 1901. Commissioner P. Smith stated the three chiefs are the expert's

and feels most of the department is EMS based, it wouldn't make sense to put a tower on and take out an ambulance. He would like to hear all three chiefs' opinions regarding the situation. Chairman McGrath suggested the three chiefs have a round table and give their opinions to the board next month. He believes the decision was made to not put anymore money into the tower. He stated the conclusion would be at the recommendations of the chiefs, even if its three different recommendations. Valid points were already made regarding EMS and the high mileage on the tower. Chief Edo stated the reasoning behind the tower going to medical calls. When the tower went out of service, it was to put Medic 3 in service. The thought was to use it when needed, not knowing it would fall apart. Commissioner Brennan affirmed it does not make sense to put in money to repair the tower. Commissioner Stein stated a 100' ladder is not for rescue its for vertical extension for distance to flow water. Chairman McGrath stated it will be left under unfinished business to come back, no money will get but it to repairing Tower 1. Commissioner P. Smith questioned if Quint 5 outrigger piston had been repaired. Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated the small fracture has been repaired. The ladder testing company said its common to have small hairline fractures. A certified welder had repaired the same day and it was recertified the next day. Commissioner P. Smith appreciated the details in the apparatus report provided.

XI. New Equipment:

Chief Edo stated Marine 2 should be in the back of our minds, as the current one is a little bit older. He will put it in the capital budget for next year. A ribcraft can be purchased for \$75,000. The current one would be put on the westside. Chairman McGrath question the jet skis. Chief Edo stated the jet skis are in good shape.

XII. Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners: none

XIII. Adjournment:

Commissioners R. Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 18:50
Motion carried unanimously.