

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, March 15, 2022

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 18:31 hours. A quorum was present.

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

Absent: Commissioner Riso.

- II. **Public Statements limited to the function of the Board of Fire Commissioners:**
None

- III. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting Correct Minutes – February 15, 2022

Commissioners R. Smith and P. Smith made and second a motion to accept the minutes of February 15, 2022. Motions carried unanimously.

- IV. **Communications:**

Commissioner R. Smith read several correspondences:

1. A thank you from Debbie Ryder noting Battalion Chief Thomas Thornberg, Captain Stephen Rabel and Firefighter Matthew Schuman's gentle care that was received on 12/8/21.
2. A thank you card from Mary Neschke to Firefighter Matthew Ramos, Firefighter Justin Sansone and Lieutenant David Heenan for the help with her car issues.
3. A letter from East Hartford Interim Fire Chief Kevin Munson thanking Battalion Chief Christopher Zak for his assistance with the promotion process, noting his talent, experience and education.

- V. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath noted the ESO article that was provided in the packets he stated it was very informative and the commission should review. He also congratulated Captain Christopher Brown on his retirement and the promotion of Lieutenant Kyle Wengenroth to Captain. Chairman McGrath extended his sympathy to the family of Alderman Martin Hardiman,

acknowledging the dedication and work he provided for the Milford community. He also mentioned the Links Chapter meeting he had which was informative and the information that was provided regarding hiring.

VI. Committees Report:

- a) **Personnel Committee:** Commissioner Stein stated the personnel committee has meet with the chiefs to push forward the vote that was implemented by the board of the new web-based hiring process. He stated the process will streamline the advertising and applications, as the departments process includes a written, oral and physical components with swim proficiency. It should be available online advertising in the next week. Commissioner Stein indicated this would be the first time the department will accept lateral hires for firefighters and paramedics to recruit jump seat ready firefighters. Some aspects that would be changed are EMT at application will be altered to EMT at time of hire. Additionally, the CPAT requirement would be changed to state valid at the time of hire. Commissioner P. Smith inquired what a CPAT is. Commissioner Stein informed him it is a standardized exam used to test a candidate's physical ability to preform job tasks related to firefighting sponsored by the State of CT. The department does a physical abilities test that tests other attributes in addition to the swim test because of the shoreline component. The hope is to have a list for the board to certify before August 2022.
- b) **Maintenance & Equipment:** Commissioner Brennan stated the new committee members meet to go over the equipment. He noted the tower is still out of service and repairs are needed to pass the DOT inspection. Quint 3 is still out of service but is not as bad as first indicated.
- c) **Safety Committee Liaison:** CO detectors were installed in the dormitory at the north side due to the apparatus being so close. The exhaust system at Seemans Lane is being investigated due to the number of ambulances that are stored there. The LED lights have been received for the boat. The signs are being reinstalled on the emergency turnaround on RTE15.

VII. Chief's Report:

Recruits – Chief Edo stated out of the eight recruits attending the academy, one is the class leader and four are additional squad leaders. All have the highest test scores and six are above average for extra credit. He explained extra credit as hands on night skills that can be worked on additional. Chief Edo stated the time the recruits spend prior to the academy has been beneficial as one of the recruits called the training division thanking them for preparing them with air pack training.

Academy update – The class this year was broken down into three groups, his fear is that due To multiple departments testing and the consortium testing a higher number of applicants will be applying for the academy. He stated ten more seats are needed for August. Chairman McGrath stated if it looks like the trend is going that way than alternatives will need to be looked into. Commissioner P. Smith inquired about the max number of recruits that can attend the academy. Chief Edo believed ninety, a larger number would be less hands-on training which could lead to safety issues.

Apparatus update – Quint 3 may be back tomorrow due to the series of issues it was having.
Commissioners Brennan and Stein made and seconded a motion to amend the agenda to include New Business: Local 944 Union report. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. **New Business:** Local 944 Golf Fundraiser

- a) Ryan LaGuardia Local 944 president stated the Local 944 is an ongoing charity event and wanted to reach out to the commission and formally invite each member on Tuesday, May 31 at Oronoque Country Club. He thanked the commission for their time.

IX. **Unfinished Business:** None

X. **New Equipment:** None

- XI. **Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:** Commissioner P. Smith had an opportunity to meet with the union leadership it was very informative and was impressed with the dedication. Commissioner Soda stated she was very appreciative of the time that was given to them.

XII. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners R. Smith and P. Smith made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:05 Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Gloria Gouse UNAPPROVED SUBJECT TO CORRECTION