

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, March 21, 2023

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 18:35 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Richard Smith, William Brennan, Peter Smith, and Cassandra Soda were present. Also, present were Alderman Liaison Michele Parente, Chief Douglas A. Edo, Assistant Chief Anthony Fabrizi, and Assistant Chief Christopher Waiksnoris

Absent: Commissioners Howard Stein, and Commissioner Thomas Riso,

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

None

- III. **Consideration of Minutes:**

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Commissioners R. Smith and P. Smith made and second a motion to accept the minutes of February 21, 2023. Motions carried unanimously.

- IV. **Communications:**

Commissioner R. Smith read a heartfelt letter of thanks from Carol Gallagher of Massachusetts. Thanking the department for helping her and her cat Joe, after experiencing a medical emergency traveling through town. Ms. Gallagher included a donation of \$100.

Commissioners R. Smith and Brennan made and second a motion to deposit the donation from Carol Gallagher into the Good and Welfare fund. Motions carried unanimously.

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

Chairman McGrath stated he has a meeting scheduled with the Chairman of the Police Commission regarding dispatch and will update the board at the next meeting. Dialogue has been made with the roof replacements, as well as the heat at the East Side Fire Station. He has been advocating for all concerns and issues will be addressed as quickly as possible. Chairman McGrath thanked the crews involved in the brush fire on 95, indicated equipment may be needed for access to hard to reach areas. He thanked the Bridgeport Islanders for the autographed hockey stick and Bridgeport Hospital Milford Campus for presenting the Cardiac

Care Award to members. Chairman McGrath also acknowledged crews for the work on the Sunny Side garage fire and the car fire on Pond Point Ave. He also wished members luck with the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive, and thanked Lowes for the donated lumber that will be used for training. The EMS summary was discussed as Assistant Chief Waiksnoris explained the different EMS responses the department uses and the amount of each station's response, explaining what Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, and Echo responses were. Commissioner P. Smith stated he appreciated the data and inquired on the run pattern of apparatus. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris stated Squad 1 is on a lot of calls, the next covering engine is Engine 7.

VII. **Committee Reports:**

- a) Personnel Committee: Nothing to report.
- b) Maintenance Committee: Commissioner Brennan noted in Assistant Chief Fabrizi's report regarding Tower 1, the issue was rust. He feels the manufacturer is the only qualified party to say the tower is out of service and should be contacted as the issue may be warrantied. Commissioner P. Smith questioned the year of the truck and if this was common for a fifteen-year piece to be considered junk. Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated the vendor who inspected the frame deemed it not safe because of the rust. He stated that currently frame rails are coded if requested in bids but years ago this was not done, the solution on the roads is rotting frames. Commissioner Brennan referenced the issue with the ladders being certified after the manufacturer was contacted and repaired under warranty. He stated that due to the cost to tax payers the proper thing to do is get the manufacturer to state it is deemed unsafe. Chairman McGrath stated a formal reply from the manufacturer should be sought and then determine if the parts are worth something as the cost to repair does not make sense.
- c) Safety Committee Liaison: Commissioner Brennan stated issues were being addressed.

VIII. **Chiefs Report:**

Chief Edo stated the recruits in the academy are doing well. Reports have been received and two are squad leaders. All six recruits have scored excellent or superior in the new physical fitness component of the program. Chief Edo updated the board on the recent Battalion Chief vacancies, stating that per the CBA a test is needed for the Battalion Chief position. There are currently three BC vacancies with another expected in April. A MOU has been acquired to allow for Captains with one year experience to test. Tests for Battalion Chief and Lieutenants are scheduled for the second week of April. Another Firefighter test is in the works as the current list is depleted.

IX. **New Business:**

None

IX. **Unfinished Business:**

None

X. **New Equipment:**

None

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

Commissioner P. Smith stated in the Assistant Chiefs reports he needed a better understanding of the software indicated. Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated both him and Assistant Chief Waiksnoris have been working hard to consolidate all programs to have the department be able to move forward. He explained he was able to remove Fire Rescue 1 which was a program used for the State accredited EMS classes that has since been changed saving the department \$8,500. Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated the Locution Alerting System has been running on outdated computers, he was able to have the PD update them. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris explained the First Due software is in the beginning stages of implementation, as the current Firehouse software has been used for twenty years and is currently not supported. He further explained that First Due is needed for the Fire Marshal division and eventually will be on apparatus MDT's. Currently all system the department works with do not communicate with each other. An RFP is being sought for a new EMS Collection vendor as well, which will be a cost savings to the city. Commissioner P. Smith agreed that new technology is important to move the department forward. Commissioner Brennan stated he appreciates the reports as they are very comprehensive. He noted that North Milford is missing a Fire station and should be addressed. Commissioner P. Smith agreed that a new fire station should be addressed in that area and the data provided would support that. Chairman McGrath stated currently there are a lot of balls in the air and the current dialogue started will be benefiting the department where it is currently needed.

XII. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners R. Smith and Brennan made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:15 Motion carried unanimously.