

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioner's Conference Room
At Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, May 21, 2019**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:16 hours. A quorum was present.

Roll Call: In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Smith, Brennan, Stein, Stanford and Weber were present. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo and Assistant Chief Gary Baker. Commissioner Riso was out of town.

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

None

3. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – April 30, 2019.

Commissioners Smith and Brennan made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the April 30, 2019, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications:**

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

- i. A check in the amount of \$25 from the Popels thanking the department for their recent services.
- ii. A thank you card from the LoRusso family to the firefighters for taking the time to show their grandson the firehouse and their service to the City.

Commissioners Stein and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the above referenced donation of \$25 and deposit it into the "Good and Welfare" Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

None.

6. **Committees Reports:**

- a) Personnel Committee: Commissioner Stein had nothing to report.
- b) Maintenance & Equipment Committee: Commissioner Brennan was not in attendance.

7. **Chief's Report:**

New Recruits – The 2 new recruits are graduating on May 23rd in Enfield at 1:00 p.m. They were true to Milford's expectations and have done exceedingly well.

James Mattioli 5K – The Chief reported that the fundraiser raised \$48,000 and they were able to award \$55,000 in scholarships back to the community.

Budget – Chairman McGrath asked the Chief to comment on the budget. The Chairman noted that the Chief and the Asst. Chiefs did a great job presenting the Department's budget to the Board of Alderman. He recommended that the Commissioners watch the presentation of the May 1st meeting on YouTube. The Chairman was hopeful that some members of the Board were receptive to the Chief's budget presentation. He later found out that they were not. The Chairman asked the Chief to explain to the Board what happened. The Chief indicated that he presented a 12.8 million budget to the Board of Alderman together with the justifications as to why the increase was necessary to make up for this long running deficit. The Chief explained that there have been contractual increases over the past few years which were discussed at last month's Commissioner's meeting. The Mayor and the Board of Finance whittled down the budget request. Following the presentation, the Board of Alderman, cut the department's requested budget to 12.1 million dollars. The Chief expressed his frustration in that the historical shortfall was still not addressed. He feels that any further budget presentations are fruitless endeavors and doesn't see the need to make any future presentations.

Fire Inspector Promotion – The Chief reported that following the Fire Inspector Test, Firefighter Tom Sarno has been promoted to the Fire Inspector position. This is a 5-year commitment unless otherwise promoted.

Swearing In / Awards Ceremony – The Chief discussed having the Swearing In ceremony next month following the June 18th Fire Commissioners' meeting and suggested that the meeting be moved to the East Station which could accommodate the new hires, promotions and their families. The Board agreed to hold their meeting at the East Station at 7:00 p.m. with the Swearing In starting thereafter. Chief Edo gave Commissioner Stein the paperwork for the Awards nominations criteria and suggested adding two members of the department to the committee. Unit Citations will be awarded by the Chiefs and presented at each fire house.

8. **New Business:**

None

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

10. **New Equipment:**

The Chief reported that the second medic truck should be in service this Friday.

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

Chairman McGrath inquired about the fire inspectors' office and Chief Edo said that they were moving the space around to get them new office space and that it will work out nicely.

Commissioner Stanford thanked the department for their emergent assistance with her husband. She expressed what a terrific job they do for the City and how they put their lives on the line every day.

12. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Brennan made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:42.
Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein