

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting**  
**72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT**  
**Tuesday, June 20, 2023**

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 18:32 hours. A quorum was present.

**Roll Call:** In addition to the Chairman, Commissioners Howard Stein, Richard Smith, Thomas Riso, William Brennan, and Peter Smith were present. Also, present were Alderman Liaison Michele Parente, Acting Chief Anthony Fabrizi, and Assistant Chief Christopher Waiksnoris

**Absent:** None

Chairman McGrath stated Commissioner Cassandra Soda has resigned. On behalf of the board he thanked her for her service, time and effort she gave to the commission.

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

None

- III. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting Minutes – May 16, 2023

Commissioners P. Smith and R. Smith made and second a motion to accept the minutes of May 16, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

- IV. **Communications:**

Commissioner R. Smith read a letter from East Shore Middle School thanking the department for its participation in their career day. He also read a card from Richard & Linda Norman for the care and professionalism received during a medical emergency at their home, a donation of \$25 was included. Commissioner R. Smith also read a card of thanks, from Robert & Julie Carnie thanking members Jason Dombrowski, Michael Castiglione, Charles Riczu, John Macaуда and Brian Carpenter for the treatment during a medical emergency at the Great River Golf Club. The department also received a check of \$100 from Michael & Michelle Mercurio as a thank you for care given to them that was never forgotten.

Commissioners Stein and R. Smith made and second a motion to deposit the \$25 and \$100 donations into the Good and Welfare account. Motion carried unanimously.

V. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath thanked the administrative staff for all the work involved with the awards ceremony held on June 14th. He also congratulated all members who received awards and recognition.

VI. **Committee Reports:**

- a) Personnel Committee: Commissioner Stein stated that there is a report from the Personnel Committee. He further stated that during the fall of 2019 the personnel subcommittee met to interview for the promotion of the position of Assistant Chief. On October 18, 2019, as chair of the subcommittee it was his pleasure to nominate then Battalion Chief Anthony Fabrizi to Assistant Chief. He expressed to the board that Assistant Chief Fabrizi than had the requisite knowledge, skills and attributes that were displayed during his interview process in 2019 and continues to show these qualities. Commissioner Stein explained the process of hiring Chief Edo when Chief LaVecchia retired. He further stated the subcommittee met with Acting Chief Fabrizi yesterday for several hours, rather than engaging in unnecessary, time consuming expensive hiring process the subcommittee is unanimous in the belief that Assistant Chief Fabrizi has demonstrated that he is a bright articulate humble leader who will make an excellent Chief.

Commissioners Stein and Riso made and second a motion to amend the agenda and add the Nomination of Anthony Fabrizi to VIII. New Business. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Stein and Brennan make and second a motion to skip to VIII. New Business – Nomination of Anthony Fabrizi. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. **New Business:**

- a) Nomination of Anthony Fabrizi

Commissioner Stein stated it was his pleasure to make a formal motion to the board Nominating Anthony Fabrizi as Chief of the City of Milford Fire Department subject to the execution of an acceptable employment agreement between the City and Chief Fabrizi. Commissioner Riso seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Stein stated based on the foregoing vote of the board, he request the Chairman administer the oath of office to Chief Anthony Fabrizi. Chairman McGrath than administered the oath of office to New Chief Anthony Fabrizi. All board members congratulated Chief Fabrizi. Chief Fabrizi expressed his honor for the position, stating he understands that great men have paved the foundation for the department, and he does not take that lightly. He also appreciates the trust of the committee; stating he is only as great as the members and is grateful for all in the department. Chairman McGrath stated there will be a ceremony in the future to present the Chief to the public. Commissioner Stein stated pending an acceptable employment agreement for the new Chief, no actions will be taken regarding the appointment of Assistant Chief.

VI. **Committee Reports (con't):**

- b) Maintenance Committee: Nothing to report.
- c) Safety Committee Liaison: Nothing to report.

VII. **Chiefs Report:**

Budget: The fiscal year budget will end in a deficit due to vacancies, leading to increased overtime hours and increased Garcia overtime shifts, increase paramedic stipends and above average number of recruits attending the Fire Academy. Commissioner P. Smith questioned Garcia overtime hours. Chief Fabrizi explained the FLSA law regarding public agency employees. Chief Fabrizi indicated the EMS revenue will pay for the engine repair of Quint 3.

Apparatus: Chief Fabrizi stated the supply chain issues continue, even with State bid list contracts. He explained depleted inventory and the current process for securing new vehicles. He noted the vehicle status report stating his concern regarding several vehicles that are in question of their reliability. Chairman McGrath stated that of the fifteen vehicles, six of those are poor or fair, noting the Inspector vehicle concerns.

Operations: A meeting was held regarding the incident action plan, meeting are ongoing. He noted the Charles Island Music Festival concerns. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris meet with organizers of the event and explained the needs required. He also noted the Coast Guard concerns as well as lack of permitting. Chief Waiksnoris noted the Oyster Festival preparation is done months in advance, noting the possible risks of the event and previous incidents. Chairman McGrath expressed his thanks to the city's legal department for their input. Commissioner Stein noted concerns for a flash event happening. Commissioner P. Smith stated due to the number of concerns it is understandable the event would not get approved. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris noted if there was a flash event the Coast Guard would fine the parties involved.

IX. **Unfinished Business:**

- a) Disposal of Quint 9 – Chief Fabrizi updated the board on the bids that were received regarding bid #1798 the sale of Fire Engine 2000 Sutphen 75” Quint. Commissioner P. Smith questioned what the highest bidder would do with the apparatus. Commissioner Brennan stated the ladder itself is valued at that price. Chief Fabrizi noted the funding received will go into the general fund.

*Commissioners P. Smith and R. Smith made and second a motion to accept the the bid of \$6501 from New England Fire Equipment for the disposal of Quint 9.*

- b) Tower 1 – Chief Fabrizi explained that Tower 1 estimated value could be increased if certain measures were taken prior to its disposal. A quote is being sought for those items. He stated it may be a minimal investment for a large return. Although that profit would go back into the general fund, he is hoping an appeal can be made with the city regarding the purchase of a new ambulance. He noted the letter of intent he previously mentioned regarding the Dodge 5500. Commissioner Brennan stated that the sale of the Tower would go out nationally, possibly generating a higher value. Commissioner P. Smith questioned if that appeal would go before the Board of Alderman, he also noted with the amount of call volume the plan makes sense as EMS responses are increasing. Chairman McGrath stated once the Chief gets more information the action would go to the mayor to get approval from the board. Commissioner Brennan noted the need for another ambulance license. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris stated the paperwork has gone to the state and is going through the proper committees. Chairman McGrath remarked on the unprecedented apparatus situation during the last few months.

X. **New Equipment:**

Chief Fabrizi informed the board that a meeting regarding the new E-One will be had next week to finalize the specs. He reminded the board the truck replacing Quint 3 was a prebuild purchase and more information will be available after the meeting.

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

Commissioner P. Smith wanted to officially state all the reports from Battalion Chief to Captains have been well crafted, he is impressed with the information submitted. It provides all with an understanding of the hard work and training the department does. He also wanted to compliment Battalion Chief Hansen and his work with the department's Instagram and Facebook accounts. Chairman McGrath stated what was done tonight with Chief Fabrizi will pay dividends in the long run to the department, he praised the Chief and Assistant Chief for their work done on behalf of the department. He also alerted the board of availability for meetings in July and August and the quorum that is needed. He wished everyone a good Fourth of July.

XII. **Adjournment**

Commissioners R. Smith and Brennan made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:28. Motion carried unanimously.