

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioner's Conference Room
At Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, August 20, 2019**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 19:17 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 Chiefs Gary Baker and Bernie Begley. Commissioner Riso was unable to attend the meeting.

Commissioners Stein and Sanford made and seconded a motion to reorder the Agenda and move Item 8. New Business subparagraph (a) after Item 1. Roll Call. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **New Business:**

a) New Lieutenants Swearing In

Chairman McGrath administered the Officer Promotion Oath to:

Lt. Dan Talaniec
Lt. Jason Bocchetta

Chairman McGrath congratulated both Lieutenants on behalf of the Board.

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

None.

3. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – July 16, 2019

Special Meeting – July 23, 2019

Commissioners Stein and Smith made and second a motion to accept the minutes of the July 16, 2019 Regular Meeting and the July 23, 2019 Special Meeting as presented. Motions carried unanimously.

4. **Communications:**

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

- i. A thank you card from the Sennett family expressing their thanks and gratitude to Paramedics Maureen Hickey and Jeff Platek.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath thanked the department for their work on the recent storms and the boat fire 2 days ago. He also noted since the department has gone to the 24 hour shifts the department has been racking up hours in training which he thought was a good thing.

6. **Committees Reports:**

- a) Personnel Committee: Commissioner Stein had nothing to report.
- b) Maintenance & Equipment Committee: Commissioner Brennan had nothing to report.

7. **Chief's Report:**

Recruits – The 2 new recruits are finishing up their second week at the department and will be going up to the Fire Academy on 8/26/19.

Cars – The 2 new cars arrived and are in service for the Fire Inspectors.

New Car 4 Command vehicle – The bid went out and Stevens Ford got the bid for \$40,000. The additional \$35,000 will be put aside to fit it.

Commissioner McGrath asked about the existing cars that the new cars are replacing. Chief Edo reported that one car is being used as a “school car.” The other car “died” and is no longer in service.

8. **New Business:**

Chairman McGrath asked if there was any further new business?

Assistant Chief Gary Baker asked if he could address the Board. Asst. Chief Baker indicated to the Board that about 2 months ago he began to contemplate retirement. He considered it over these several months and has come to the decision that he is going to submit his retirement papers to the City effective September 27, 2019. He indicated that its been a pleasure working in the department for the last 33 years and he is looking forward to helping choose his replacement.

Chairman McGrath thanked Asst. Chief Baker for his time and leadership with the Department. He wished the Asst. Chief and his family the best.

Chief Edo thanked Asst. Chief Baker for his friendship. He further thanked him for his “Bond and Honor” and told him that “he would be missed.”

Commissioner Brennan also indicated that Asst. Chief Baker “would be missed.”

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

10. **New Equipment:**

None.

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

Commissioner Smith ask whether the firefighters who responded on the fireboat to the recent boat fire were tethered in some way to the boat? He indicated that several photos of the incident show firefighter in full turnout gear on the boat during suppression operations. He expressed concern about firefighter safety if they fell into the water in their gear.

Asst. Chief Baker indicated that there is a certain degree of buoyancy in the turnout gear that firefighters wear. This buoyancy would provide a measure of time to assist a firefighter who went in the water. Battalion Chief Fabrizi added that once a fire is under control, Firefighters remove some of their gear.

Chairman McGrath asked if there were any issues accessing this secured boatyard. Battalion Chief Fabrizi indicated that this fire was during the day so the yard gate was not secure. He further indicated that there are two boatyards that have secured gates at night and that procedures were in place to allow the department access in emergencies. Additional training might be necessary to remind department members how to access these yards.

12. **Adjournment:**

Commissioners Smith and Weber made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:34.
Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Stein