

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting

72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

- 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 Stein, Riso, R. Smith, Brennan, P. Smith and Soda were present. Also present was Chief Edo, Assistant Chief Fabrizi, and Assistant Chief Waiksnoris

Absent: None

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

None

- III. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting Minutes – June 21, 2022

Commissioners R. Smith and Riso made and second a motion to accept the minutes of June 21, 2022. Motions carried unanimously.

- IV. **Communications:**

Commissioner R. Smith read several correspondences:

1. A letter from Helen Day thanking the EMT's who helped with her husband on June 18th. She appreciates the care shown toward her during that difficult time, and each time the department members have been to the house to assist.
2. A thank you from Mary D'Amato of United Way thanking the department for the support with the duck race. Identifying Battalion Chief Brian Colwell and Captain Adam Hansen and the entire A platoon for all the help received.
3. A letter of gratitude from Leon O'Neal for the department members that help him when he had a medical emergency at his place of business.

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V. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath wished the best to Battalion Chief Thomas Thornberg, Lieutenant David Heenan, Firefighter John O'Brien, and Deputy Fire Marshal Anthony Fino in their recent retirement. On behalf of the board, he thanked them for their service to the department and the community. He also acknowledged the recent promotions of Inspector Tim Suden to Deputy Fire Marshal, Inspector Marc LaBrecque to Senior Fire Inspector and Firefighter Jeff Platek to Lieutenant. Chairman McGrath informed the board that a template is being put together regarding calls and available for public viewing. He also commented on the overtime expenses concern in the department. He stated the department had and still has many vacancies, due to retirements and Covid relate issues which contractually must be filled.

VI. **Committees Report:**

- a) Personnel Committee: none
- b) Maintenance & Equipment: Commissioner Brennan stated the Tower is waiting on parts.
- c) Safety Committee Liaison: Commissioner Brennan noted the topics were dispatch and safety officers, which the department is handling.

VII. **Chief's Report:**

Testing Update – Chief Edo stated the list for hiring is available for the commission to approval under new business.

Connecticut Fire Academy Update – The department was lucky to get ten spots which will help fill the current vacancies. The goal is to get have more recruits in the next class in 2023 to be fully staffed.

Apparatus Update – As Commissioner Brennan stated the tower is out for repair. All apparatus have been getting DOT inspections and trucks have been getting regular service for repairs. Ladders & ground ladders tests being in October. The goal is to have everything safe for staff.

Dispatch – A meeting with PD will be rescheduled to discuss training and CAD issues with running assignments. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris explained the department will have members trained in the program, at a significate cost pending the meeting with PD. Assistant Chief Fabrizi stated the new MDT's (mobile data terminals) should help connectivity issues.

Promotions - Chief Edo noted this was the first time a Battalion Chief test was done per the contract. He explained the process and noted the two vacant Battalion Chief positions will be filled by the two Captains who passed. Two Captains will be promoted and a Lieutenants test will follow. He noted this is where the budget balloons by filling the vacant positions waiting to be filled as staff retire there is not enough time on the floor to fill the positions as required.

Clerical Reorganization – The Chief stated his goal is to reorganize the office staff which currently has two clerks and one secretary. He stated the current non rep clerk position is not compensated correctly. Commissioner R. Smith questioned if the position was budgeted, Chief Edo stated he would work within the budget, there would be no additional costs.

Commissioner Stein and Commissioner Riso made and second a motion to give the Chief authority for clerical reorganization. Motions carried unanimously.

VIII. **New Business:**

a) Recruit Firefighter hiring list approval

Commissioner P. Smith questioned if any of the applicants were paramedics, he also mentioned the previous idea of getting an EMT course in the high schools to reach a wider audience. Chief Edo stated that two were in paramedic school at this time and everyone who is on the list presented are certified EMT's.

Commissioner Riso and Commissioner Brennan made and second a motion to formally except the Milford Fire Department Firefighter Eligibility List presented. Motions carried unanimously.

IX. **Unfinished Business:** None

X. **New Equipment:** Commissioner Brennan stated he went to Bridgeport to look at a 107' single axel quint. He suggested the department investigate this for replacement of Quint 3.

XI. **Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:** Commissioner Stein stated due to the availability of Nelson Ambulance and staffing issues with the Oyster Festival the board should review the contract with Nelson. He also questioned negotiations. Chief Edo stated the contract is negotiated through the city with the EMS Officer. Commissioner P. Smith agreed with the statement of reviewing the contract, as the volume of EMS calls is tremendous. Chief Edo stated the volume of calls received are EMS related and he would like to reward the paramedics with a bonus to show appreciation and keep retention. Commissioner Stein stated if services are unavailable the department needs to have a plan and be ready with a finger on the pulse of the situation. Commissioner Brennan stated Milford is a five-ambulance town three from the department and two from Nelson. The department owns six ambulances, he noted going down to two ambulances would cut the amount significantly that is deposited into the general fund. Commissioner Stein stated the bottom line is meeting the call volume and meeting the department/city needs for the next contractual year. Assistant Chief Waiksnoris said there is currently a shortage of EMT's and most places are having a hard time staffing. He stated one of Nelson's concerns is not getting the call volume from the city. A conversation was had regarding EMT shortages, billing, hospital owned ambulances and incentives for hiring. Commissioner P. Smith stated he appreciated Assistant Chief Fabrizi's report indicating the volume of calls on a monthly

break down, he also appreciates all the reports received as he does review them. Commissioner P. Smith congratulated Assistant Chief Waiksnoris as the new Fire Marshal. He also requested a breakdown of revenue the fire department is generating for the city. Chief Edo stated he will provide that for the board. Commissioner Brennan questioned signage on Seemans Lane as the training facility.

XII. Adjournment:

Commissioners R. Smith and Riso made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:39
Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Gloria Gouse UNAPPROVED SUBJECT TO CORRECTION