

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners' Conference Room at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, November 19, 2013**

Call to Order: Chairman Riso called the meeting to order at 1900 hours. A quorum was present.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners Thomas Riso, Kevin McGrath, Howard Stein, Joseph Weber, and William A. Brennan. Also present were Chief Douglas Edo, Assistant Chief Gary Baker, and Union President Michael Dunn.

Commissioner Smith was excused.

2. Public Statements limited to the function of the Board of Fire Commissioners:
None.

3. Consideration of Minutes:
Regular Meeting – October 15, 2013

Commissioners McGrath and Brennan made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the October 15, 2013, Regular Meeting, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Communications:

- a. Thank-you card from the Sandcastle Learning Center thanking the Department for visiting the school. The children were very excited and the experience was highly educational. The children included their own thank-you cards to the Department.

Chairman Riso commented there is such high demand for the Fire Department to visit schools during Fire Prevention Week that it has turned into Fire Prevention Month in Milford.

Chief Edo added Commissioner Smith is in possession of two more items for Communications that he will report to the Commissioners at the next meeting.

Chief Edo thanked Lieutenant Murphy and his crew for the work they did for Pumpkins on the Piers. Chairman Riso added he had heard from several members of the community that it was a well-done event.

5. Committee Reports

East Side Fire Station

Commissioner Brennan reported the project has gone to mediation. He noted the contractor has filed against the City and the architect; it becomes a waiting game at this point. Chairman Riso said mediation generally takes a long time to come to resolution. Commissioner Brennan said he believes that will not be the case in this instance.

6. Chief's Report

Chief Edo reported there is no significant change to the status of Marine 1. He is confident it will be sea-worthy for the spring season.

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The Chief informed the Commissioners he would be attending the Board of Finance meeting on the 25th to ask for an increase of funds to cover attaining a new Quint, as discussed at the previous meeting. The proposal would be submitted to the Board of Aldermen for approval on December 2nd; the specs for the new Quint should be available at that time as well.

Chief Edo said there has been no change on the new Inspector's test. He said the Union has been patiently waiting, but the City Attorney's Office has been quite busy lately.

Chief Edo said the AC unit has a temporary fix and is currently working. He stressed this will have to be revisited in the summer.

The Chief reported Car 4 is not yet in service as it is still experiencing computer problems. He stated the Bluetooth connection has been ordered and will be installed by the end of the week. Chairman Riso inquired how many of the Department's cars have Bluetooth installed; Chief Edo said presently just Car 1.

Chief Edo discussed the accident report associated with Engine 7. He explained there was a water main leak investigation and Engine 7 subsequently ran into a hole, sustaining \$15,000-worth of damage. He said Engine 7 will be back in service tomorrow. Commissioner Brennan inquired if the Department will be filing a claim against the water company; Chief Edo said all necessary paperwork has been filed already.

The Chief reported the Department has turned down the old truck donation.

Chief Edo said the recruit graduation will be held at Parsons on December 6th at 1:30. He reminded the Commissioners that as Milford is the host city this year, he has reached out to see how the Milford Fire Department can assist. He said the Department has offered the use of its Honor Guard and will also be hanging the flag in front of the auditorium for the ceremony. Chairman Riso commented the Bridgeport graduation was well-attended and was held in a larger venue, the Klein Auditorium. Chief Edo said there are 54 recruits in this class. Commissioner Stein reminded the Commissioners that a member from the Stratford Fire Department will be presenting an award at the graduation. Commissioner McGrath inquired as to the process going forward. Chairman Riso said the new hires will go through a probationary period; the Chief affirmed that fact and said they will also be sworn-in as soon as possible, with a second swearing-in at City Hall possibly in January, where all the recruits' families could attend. Assistant Chief Baker commented the new Lieutenant will need to be sworn-in as well; the Chief said an invitation will be extended to him and his family as well.

The Chief reported the budget has already been submitted for approval, and he apologized for not discussing it with the Board first. Commissioner McGrath asked for the Commissioners to all be furnished with a copy of the budget that is going to the Board of Finance. Chairman Riso noted in years past if the budget remained in the 90

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percent range, it was contractually agreed upon. The Chief said that statement is fairly accurate, although there are other items that have to be purchased.

Chief Edo explained that although Stations 5 and 6 are closed, the Department is still paying for the utilities on both buildings. He has made inquiries and has been told that no other City department has been budgeted for those costs. He noted that the Borough of Woodmont has not yet closed on Station 5; Station 6 is still owned by the Fire Department but is being utilized by the Police Department. The Chief discussed the historical amount of utilities in Stations 5 and 6 as compared to the new East Side Fire Station. Commissioner Brennan explained the Department is currently paying for the traffic light in front of the station and the Lite the Night program. He added there is a question about if the contractor has been credited on the street lights and that is being investigated.

Commissioner McGrath inquired if the figures in the budget going forward reflect the carrying charges for Stations 5 and 6; the Chief said they are included in this year's budget. Commissioner Weber inquired if there is a firm closing date on Station 5; the Chief said there had been one set but the closing did not take place.

Assistant Chief Baker reported the radio tower currently housed on Station 6 will be moved to Station 5, with the cost being incurred by the Police Department. He said the pad will be poured soon and all the equipment will be moved before spring.

Chairman Riso asked for an update on the dispatch center. Assistant Chief Baker said it is moving along. Some of the MDTs are still shutting down randomly, but IT has been working on it. He informed the Commissioners the in-building radio coverage testing has been completed. Assistant Chief Baker stated some dead spots have been alleviated, while some new dead spots have materialized. He said one new dead spot is the library.

7. New Business

Recruit Class Graduation

*Discussed in Item 6, Chief's Report

Chairman Riso commented he is happy the graduation is being held in Milford and he is looking forward to a good turnout.

8. Unfinished Business:

Donated Rescue Truck for Rehab

*Discussed in Item 6, Chief's Report

Schedule for 2014 Commissioners Meetings

Commissioners McGrath and Stein made and seconded a motion to accept the 2014 schedule as presented in the monthly packet. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Riso noted the schedule will be posted on the City's website.

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
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The Chairman asked if the Department would be running the Toys for Tots drive this year; he noted it is not on the Agenda. Commissioner Brennan said the Board has approved the drive in years past.

Commissioners Stein and Brennan made and seconded a motion to add the Toys for Tots Drive to the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Toys for Tots Drive

Commissioners Brennan and Stein made and seconded a motion to approve the Toys for Tots Drive run by the Fire Department for 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Comments and Concerns of the Commissioners:

Commissioner McGrath inquired of the status of the On Sandy Ground Playground project. Union President Dunn reported playground number 14 is currently being built in New London. He believes the Milford playground will be built in March, right around the birthday of the child in whose memory the playground will be built. He added the playground will be built on the old Milford Academy site.

Commissioner McGrath asked how the fundraising for the project was going. Union President Dunn said \$16,000 has been raised for the project; many of the Milford schools have been participating in the fundraising. He noted there is no set amount of money required; the Foundation asks all participants to "pay it forward" in the future.

Union President Dunn stated he will update the Board as a date for construction is set. He said it will be a two- to three-day build.

Chairman Riso noted Commissioners McGrath and Brennan visited the Connecticut Fire Academy recently. Commissioner McGrath reported the experience was both educational and impressive. He noted the Milford recruits seem to be in the top of their class. He added that a negative component for him was the very apparent need for funds. He reiterated the work that is being done at the Academy is phenomenal, but the equipment needs to be updated.

10. Adjournment

Commissioners Stein and McGrath made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 1934 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by C. Birney