

**Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting
Commissioners' Conference Room
at Fire Headquarters
72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT
Tuesday, April 18, 2017**

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

Roll Call: Commissioners Brennan, Smith, Stein and Stanford were present. Also, present was Chief Douglas Edo, Assistant Chief Gary Baker and Assistant Chief Bernie Begley. Commissioners Weber and Riso contacted Chairman McGrath informing him that they were unable to attend the meeting.

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

Firefighter Jason Stacoffe addressed the Board. He indicated that he is the Co-Chairman of the Union's Muscular Dystrophy Association ("MDA") Fundraising Committee. He was requesting permission from the Board to engage in fundraising activities for the MDA (including "boot drives".) He indicated that last year the Union raised \$7,700 for MDA just shy of their \$8,000 goal. He was hopeful that they would reach their goal for this year.

Commissioners Stein and Stanford made and seconded a Motion to permit Local 944 to engage in fund raising activities to benefit MDA. Motion carried unanimously

3. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – March 21, 2017.

Commissioners Stanford and Smith made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the March 21, 2017, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Communications:**

Commissioner Smith reported that the Department received the following communications:

- i) Chief Edo received a phone message from Diane Rosenberg thanking the department for helping her and how impressed she was with the amazing group of firefighters who came to her aid.
- ii) The department received a message from Vanessa thanking them for being so kind to her son while on a call on East Broadway. She expressed how grateful and blessed the City is to have such a wonderful fire department in the City of Milford.

- iii) Chief Edo received an email from Janet Kasuba who was so impressed with the 911 Team. She wrote that the 911 Team arrived quickly, were courteous, professional and creative in a difficult situation. She expressed the importance of the work they do and that as an individual and a City, we would struggle without them.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman McGrath on behalf of himself and the Commission expressed condolences to the family of Battalion Chief Anthony Fabrizi on the loss of his mother.

Chairman McGrath also expressed condolences to Commissioner Weber on behalf of himself and the Commission on the loss of his father-in-law.

Chairman McGrath thanked the department on their dedication over the weekend involving the loss of an individual in the waters of Long Island Sound.

6. **Committees Reports:**

- a) Personnel Committee: Commissioner Stein had nothing to report.
- b) Maintenance & Equipment Committee: Commissioner Brennan reported he has a meeting scheduled for next week at the mechanical shop.

7. **Chief's Report:**

Chief Edo commented on the water rescue this past weekend. He noted it was fortuitous that the Department put Marine 1 in the water early this year. Despite the unfortunate outcome, Marine 1 was able to respond quickly together with the departments other marine units. The warm weather has boaters and kayakers out on the water already even though the water temperature is still in the 40s and quite cold. This cold water temperature can create hypothermia very quickly.

- a) Budget - The Chief noted that Budget is to go before the Board of Alderman on May 3, 2017. All three Chiefs as well as other administrative team members will be present. The Chief reiterated that “flat line” budget approved by City Hall is what is before the Board. He reminded the Commissioners that City Hall also has contingency budgets reflecting a 5%, 3% and 2% decrease from the “flat line” budget that the Board of Alderman will be considering. These contingency budgets represent decreases of \$570 thousand dollars (5%), \$342 thousand dollars (3%) and \$228 thousand dollars (2%) respectively and may be put into place after the fiscal year begins depending on what happens with loss of State funding to the City. Chairman McGrath noted that the City is projecting State cuts between 3.5 to 7.5 million dollars in the upcoming fiscal year.

- b) Contract - The Board of Alderman approved the new Collective Bargaining Agreement on March 6, 2017. Some parts of the Agreement are in motion such as the bidding process and the testing for fire inspector.
- c) New Recruits - The report cards have been received and the recruits are average or above. Again, the feedback from the training instructors are positive.
- d) New Engine - Asst. Chief Begley reported that the new engine is here and that the Department has signed off on it. All four shifts have completed training on the new Engine. Radios are currently being installed and the truck is due back on Thursday. It will then be sent back to the dealers for the final mounting of equipment based on the recommendations received from the crews during the training process. Chairman McGrath thanked Chief Begley for all his efforts.
- e) Testing for Fire Inspector - The testing for Fire Inspector is scheduled for tomorrow.

8. **New Business:**

Grievance 17-001 – Chairman McGrath notified the Board that he has received a letter from the Arthur J. Murphy, III, Secretary , IAFF Local 944 informing the Chairman and the Commissioners that the Union has filed a Grievance in accordance with the 2016-2020 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) alleging that the City has violated the CBA in regards to the contractual promotion of a Deputy Fire Marshal within 7 days of a vacancy. The Chairman indicated that he was going to communicate with the Union and request additional time to our next regularly scheduled meeting to respond to this Grievance.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

None.

10. **New Equipment:**

None.

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

None

Adjournment:

Commissioners Smith and Stanford made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 19:31 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Prepared by Recording Secretary Diane Stein