

**MEETING MINUTES - BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
MAY 17, 2023 – 11:00 AM  
Meeting ID: 994 4925 0236**

**1. Call to order: Meeting called to order at 11:04 AM**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:**

**3. Moment of silence for US Firefighter Line-Of-Duty deaths:**

Firefighter Anthony Duivenvoorde  
Service Forester Cody Mullens  
Firefighter Horace Wright

Firefighter Fred Fedeler  
Deputy Chief Chester Lauck  
Captain Roy Sewell

**4. Roll Call:** Commissioners Rosenberg, R. Russo, J. Meszoros, J. Larcheveque, C. Saunders-Maignan\* A/DC Cronin

**Commissioner Saunders-Maignan entered the meeting at 11:11 am.**

**Absent:** Acting Chief Edwards, A/DC Hathaway, G. Pettway, W. Marshall

**5. Minutes:**

Entertain a motion to dispense with reading of minutes of the previous meeting.

Commissioner Meszoros moved, Commissioner Larcheveque second; all in favor: I's have it.

**6. Old Business:**

i. None.

**7. New Business:**

i. Entertain a motion to remove William Morrissey, Jr., Provisional Assistant Chief deceased April 27, 2023, and refer to the appropriate City Agency for implementation.

Commissioner Meszoros entertained a motion to remove William Morrissey, Jr. Provisional Assistant Chief from the Pension Plan; Commissioner Larcheveque second; all in favor: I's have it.

ii. Entertain a motion to grant Jill Morrissey, Widow of retired Provisional Assistant Chief William Morrissey, Jr. a Widow's Pension effective April 28, 2023, and refer to the appropriate City Agency for implementation.

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Commissioner Meszoros entertained a motion to grant Yolanda Waldo a Widow's Pension effective August 11, 2022; Commissioner Larcheveque second; all in favor: I's have it.

- iii. Grievance 2023-02-A Firefighter Terence O'Connell submitted a request to contest disciplinary action issued by Acting Fire Chief Edwards. Firefighter O'Connell refers to Article 5, Disciplinary Action, Paragraph 1 and is requesting the action to be rescinded and to be made whole for financial loss.

Firefighter O'Connell requested President Rosenberg to recuse himself. President Rosenberg advised he would recuse himself, however, without him participating in the review, he would not have a quorum. Vice-President Russo advised that he sees no conflict with President Rosenberg remaining therefore he does not need to recuse himself. President Rosenberg stated based on Vice-President Russo's advice he will not recuse himself. The Board informed FF O'Connell it was his choice to move forward with the grievance or not and he advised he wished to move forward. Commissioner Meszoros stated the grievance indicates that Acting Fire Chief Edwards issued the discipline and since he is not in attendance, it would be best to table to next month when Chief Edwards would be available.

Commissioner Meszoros entertained a motion to table to the June Board of Fire Commissioner Meeting; Commissioner Russo second; all in favor: I's have it.

- v. Grievance 2023-02 in accordance with Article 6, Local 834 hereby submits that the City violated Article 34 (Retroactive Payments) when it failed to include Article 12, Section 8 of the most recent CBA covering July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2025. (See the attached Grievance and subsequent Articles from the CBA).

Local 834 President Dobbs advised a few members who forfeited vacation leave in 2021 and 2022 should be reimbursed for those days based on the language in the recently signed CBA. Discussions between Labor Relations and Local 834 ensued with the interpretation of the word "earnings". Labor Relations reads the Article in the contract that vacation is not earned wages and Local 834 reads vacation as earned regular wages.

Commissioners Larcheveque advised he had concerns regarding the language and the definition of "earnings". Recommends the Board get legal interpretation to clarify.

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Commissioner Meszoros entertained a motion to request legal interpretation from City Attorney Mitola on Article 12, Section K, Commissioner Larcheveque second; all in favor: I's have it.

**8. Executive Session for attendance review of the following individuals:**

• **PE Mark Bigard – Declined Executive Session**

PE Bigard advised he continues therapy with 6 sessions remaining. His next doctor's appointment is scheduled for May 22, 2023.

Commissioner Meszoros entertained a motion to table to the June Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting; Commissioner Saunders-Maignan second; all in favor: I's have it.

• **FF Eriq McCalla – Not in Attendance**

Commissioner Larcheveque entertained a motion to table to the June Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting; Commissioner Meszoros second; all in favor: I's have it.

• **LT Jacob Hall – Declined Executive Session**

LT Hall advised he has a RTW date of May 30, 2023, and has provided A/DC Cronin with the documentation.

No motion required.

• **FF Isaias Rodriguez – Declined Executive Session**

FF Rodriguez advised he had a doctor's appointment on May 12, 2023, and he is progressing as normal. His next appointment with his doctor is mid-June and they will discuss RTW date.

Commissioner Meszoros entertained a motion to table to the June Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting; Commissioner Russo second; all in favor: I's have it.

• **FF Paul Dushay – Declined Executive Session**

FF Dushay advised he had a doctor appointment on May 8, 2023, and is making excellent progress. His next appointment is first week of June. FF Dushay asked permission to speak to the Board regarding his MUNIS advice depicting him on Sick Leave and not Injury Leave for January and February which may have tax ramifications.

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Chief Cronin advised PMA and the Department have accepted this an injury. Worker's Compensation makes payment through a voucher system and how the voucher is processed by City Payroll is unknown to the Administration. Additionally, FF Dushay has retained counsel and at this the point communications with PMA go between the 2 attorneys.

Discussions continued and it was suggested that notification be sent to Payroll and PMA that FF Dushay is on Injury Leave and not Sick Leave. Chief Cronin advised he will make the request again to both.

Commissioner Meszoros entertained a motion to table to the June Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting as well as sending an email to Payroll and PMA; Commissioner Larcheveque second; all in favor: I's have it.

- **FF Joseph Torres – Declined Executive Session**

FF Torres advised his next doctor appointment is scheduled for May 23, 2023, and has a few more PTs scheduled after that date. Once completed he will then be able to discuss a possible RTW date with his doctor.

Commissioner Meszoros entertained a motion to table to the June Board of Fire Commissioner Meeting; Commissioner Larcheveque second; all in favor: I's have it.

- **FI Richard Minfield – Not in Attendance**

Commissioner Rosenberg entertained a motion to order him in for next month and an IME should be ordered. Chief Cronin advised this is an Injury Leave and he may have had an IME through PMA. Commissioner Rosenberg stated if that is the case, we should have the IME report. President Dobbs made note that Chief Edwards suggested that the Union, Labor and the Department have discussions on ordering IMEs after a 12-month time.

Commissioner Russo moved to order FI Minfield to the June Board of Fire Commissioner Meeting and an IME; Commissioner Larcheveque second; all in favor; I's have it.

- **FF Ronald Reed – Not in Attendance**

President Rosenberg recommended the Board order FF Reed to the June Board of Fire Commissioner Meeting.

Commissioner Russo moved to order FF Reed to the June Board of Fire Commissioner Meeting and for an IME; Commissioner Larcheveque second; all in favor: I's have it.

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**9. Entertain a motion to accept the Report of Sick and Injury**

Commissioner Meszoros moved to accept the Report of Sick and Injury; Commissioner Saunders-Maignan second; all in favor: I's have it.

**10. Policy and Procedure Review:**

Acting Deputy Chief Cronin addressed the Board on the Monthly Statistics and key issues:

- Pumper Engineer Exam announced; written exam scheduled for May 27th; practical exam will be held shortly thereafter.
- Awaiting dates from Civil Service on administering a Lieutenant's Exam.
- PRF's submitted to promote (3) Lieutenants to the rank of Captain.
- Gearing up for a summer Recruit Class in August, looking to hire 20.
- Budget was approved by Common Council on May 8, 2023.
- FEMA awarded BFD \$1.1 million to be used for 13 LUCAS Devices and Tech Rescue Technician training.
- With the recent award received, the last grant submitted was adjusted requesting bailout kits.
- Working on getting members trained on the new inflatable vessel.

President Dobbs asked A/DC Cronin if there a date was provided by Civil Service on a Lieutenant's exam including Chief and Deputy Chief. Dobbs advised he has emphasized these tests are important and need to be given in a timely fashion.

**11. There be nothing further to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn is in order.**

Commissioner Russo moved; Commissioner Larcheveque second; all in favor: I's have it.

Meeting Ended 12:08 PM

Prepared: G. Bottillo