

September 15, 2010
Regular Meeting Board of Fire Commissioners

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on the above date.

Present: President Rosenberg, Commissioners Klein, Lee, Meszoros
and Fire Chief Rooney

Absent: Vice President Garcia and Commissioner Gaskin

President Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion was made and seconded to dispense with reading the minutes of the previous meeting.

Old Business

1. Local 834 – Grievance 2010-16; Dianne Micalizzi, Widow's Pension.

Associate City Attorney Mitola represented that he was waiting for additional medical information and Mrs. Micalizzi is aware of the situation. He requested that the matter be tabled until next month.

Commissioner Lee motioned to table the grievance until next month's meeting; Commissioner Klein seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

New Business

1. Communications:
 - a. Letter of Condolence from the Civil Service Commission.

Clerk Petrucelli read a letter from Civil Service Commissioners and Personnel Director David Dunn extending their sympathy for the loss of Fallen Fire Fighters, Lieutenant Velasquez and Fire Fighter Michel Baik.

2. Commissioner Klein motioned to remove Retired FF Louis W. Serca, deceased August 19, 2010, from the Firefighter's Pension List, and refer to the Board of Trustees, Pension Plan A for implementation; Commissioner Meszoros seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

3. Commissioner Lee motioned to remove Retired Deputy Fire Chief Patrick Shevlin III, deceased September 9, 2010, from the Firefighter's Pension list and refer to the Board of Trustees, Pension Plan A, for implementation; Commissioner Klein seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

4. Commissioner Meszoros motioned to change the status of Wanda McNeil's Widow's Pension to a Line of Duty Widow's Pension and refer to the Board of Trustee's Pension Plan B for implementation; Commissioner Klein seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

5. Commissioner Klein motioned to grant a Non-Line of Duty Disability Pension request to FF James Sanquedolce, upon retirement, effective 2400 hours, September 3, 2010 and refer to the Board of Trustees, Pension Plan B, for implementation; Commissioner Lee seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

6. Executive Session for attendance review of the following individuals:

a. FF Frank Norris (B) – President Rosenberg represented that FF Norris was in a health care facility. Commissioner Lee motioned to table the matter to next month's meeting; Commissioner Klein seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

b. FF Ronald Reed (B) – President Rosenberg represented that FF Ronald Reed was contacted and he does have representation, however, one witness was not available this evening, therefore, the matter cannot be heard. Commissioner Lee motioned to table the matter to next month's meeting; Commissioner Klein seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

c. Lt Giovanni Sanzo (B) – President Rosenberg represented that Lt Sanzo was on light duty, with restrictions, as of September 14, 2010. Commissioner Klein motioned to table the matter for 90 days; Commissioner Meszoros seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

7. Commissioner Meszoros motioned to accept the Report of Sick and Injury; Commissioner Klein seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

8. Commissioner Meszoros motioned to accept the Payroll Register; Commissioner Klein seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

9. Policy and Procedure review.

Chief Rooney passed out information and informed the Board that Civil Service was in the process of putting together a new Fire Fighter's Exam and looking to change the agility test to what is called a CPAT which is a Candidate Physical Ability Test. This is much better as far as the agility test that they used in the past to determine whether or not a person is capable of doing their job. There are eight different stations that they go through and then evaluated from there. This is not a test to get rid of a ton of people. Statistics from the Fire Academy indicated that last year 473 people took the test and 422 passed. This year 1,686 took it and 1,564 passed. This is an examination that will test a person's ability, endurance and strength to be able to do the job. In many cases, people that apply for the job don't even show up once they know they have to take this particular test. About 184 didn't show last year and 782 this year didn't show.

Chief Rooney asked the Commission to look at the information and maybe next month, if they felt comfortable with it, to take a vote and support it. Chief Rooney had a letter from the Safety Committee and stated that he also spoke with the Union and asked Union President Whitbread if he had anything to add. Union President Whitbread responded that he wanted to review the whole thing himself.

President Rosenberg commented that many other departments throughout the State of Connecticut and the Country use the CPAT process, he spoke to the Mayor about it approximately 2 years ago and many of the unions throughout the Country have endorsed it and thought that it was a good way to select people who were qualified to become firefighters.

Commissioner Klein asked if this test was administered to existing firefighters. Chief Rooney responded no. President Rosenberg responded that it was just for new candidates. Union President Whitbread stated that was the reason he wanted to see the program in final form.

President Rosenberg presented the program in its entirety a couple of years ago and discussed it with the Mayor and the program is designed for candidates and he didn't think that they would even test existing firefighters because that is not the intent or what it has ever been used for in the past.

Commissioner Klein asked if firefighters are tested on a yearly basis. Chief Rooney responded no. Deputy Chief Petrucelli responded they are given a physical exam.

Chief Rooney stated that in the Department's last class they hired 31 people and 10 people washed out and almost all of them it was because they didn't have the ability or endurance to do the job and it cost them money and medical bills and they were taking some one to the walk in clinics almost every day because they couldn't do certain parts of the training. This will eliminate quite a bit of that so they won't have to spend a lot of money training and getting them into that position and then after that they appeal to Civil Service, they get a lawyer and before you know it, it gets into a mess. This will help the City immensely if we can promote this.

10. There being nothing further to come before the Board, Commissioner Meszoros motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Klein seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.