

**December 15, 2010**  
**Regular Meeting Board of Fire Commissioners**

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

President Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present: President Rosenberg, Vice President Ana Garcia, Commissioners Doris G. Garcia, Klein, Lee, Meszoros and Fire Chief Rooney

Absent: None

Commissioner Lee motioned to dispense with reading the minutes of the previous meeting; Commissioner Meszoros seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

Old Business

1. None.

New Business

1. Communications:

- a. None.

2. Commissioner Klein motioned to remove Retired Pumper Engineer Bruno A. Bresse, deceased November 30, 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 Elaine Giannettino Naples, deceased December 3, 2010, from the Widow'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. Executive Session for attendance review of the following individuals:

- a. FF Ronald Reed (B) – Chief Rooney represented that the Department had a difficult time trying to get Fire Fighter Reed an appointment with an orthopedic specialist that both attorneys agreed to and they finally got Coastal Orthopedics in Norwalk. They actually got an appointment for him today which is scheduled for December 22, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. They will be in contact with him notifying him of the appointment and to sign a release of his records.

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

b. LT Marc Strickland (B) – Executive Session was waived. Attorney Lascelle was also present.

President Rosenberg asked Lieutenant Strickland if the questions were answered by his doctor. Lieutenant Strickland responded that he spoke to Chief Grace and he has all his doctor reports. Lieutenant Strickland stated that his doctor has him off duty and totally disabled until his next visit with him on January 3, 2011. Chief Rooney read from the report and said that basically his doctor is giving him some medication and he's giving it because Workers' Compensation won't fill it. Lt. Strickland responded that that was correct. Chief Rooney further read that therapy would have to wait until the hearing takes place. Lt. Strickland responded that those were records since the last meeting, the most recent one was dated 12/13 and he read: "It is suggested that he return in three weeks again I am confirming that these symptoms are due to the motor vehicle accident on August 4, 2010." Chief Rooney asked if he was saying that in 3 weeks he can come back to work according to this. Lt. Strickland responded that he has him off duty until he sees him again in January. Chief Rooney asked if he was doing any therapy and if he had any documentation. Lt. Strickland read from the same report stating that he started therapy. Chief Rooney also asked if he brought in the \$1,000.00 bill which he previously stated he paid and if he paid any bills. Lt. Strickland responded that he paid co-pay for the medication; he paid doctor's bills and the ambulance bill. Chief Rooney asked if they were ever given to Chief Grace and he responded no. Chief Rooney stated that Deputy Chief Grace should get copies of the bills so he can take care of them in a timely fashion.

Commissioner Klein motioned to table to next month's meeting; Commissioner Ana Garcia seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

c. LT Frank Mercaldi (B) – Executive Session was waived.

Chief Rooney asked Lieutenant Mercaldi if October 5<sup>th</sup> was the last time he went to the doctor. Lieutenant Mercaldi responded that he went to the doctor on November 19 and had blood work, stress test, etc. and his next appointment is December 23, 2010. Chief Rooney stated that they didn't have any report from the November 19<sup>th</sup> appointment.

Deputy Chief Grace stated that the only documentation the Department received was from the October 5, 2010 appointment. Chief Rooney stated that October 5, 2010 was the last time the Lieutenant saw the doctor, today is December 15 and they didn't have any other documentation and Chief Grace called and asked the Lieutenant to return his call.

Lieutenant Mercaldi responded that Chief Grace called in November to tell him that there was going to be a Fire Commissioners' meeting in December. He didn't know it was going to be the 15<sup>th</sup> and he already made an appointment for the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Chief Rooney asked if he had any follow up after the October 5<sup>th</sup> appointment. Lt. Mercaldi responded that he had a stress test he thought on the 10<sup>th</sup>, a follow up on November 19 and blood work. Chief Rooney asked if the results of the stress test were given to Chief Grace.

Deputy Chief Grace explained that he called and informed Lieutenant Mercaldi that he would receive a letter from him with questions that had to be answered by his care provider and the Lieutenant told him that he had an appointment on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and Deputy Chief Grace responded that these questions needed to be answered before then and he was given ample time.

Commissioner Klein told the Lieutenant that he could have at least gotten an up date from his physician to bring to this meeting. Lieutenant Mercaldi responded that he had nothing. Commissioner Klein further stated that Deputy Chief Grace sent him a letter dated November 24 telling him what questions needed to be answered by his care provider and they should have at least had some answers to those questions based on him having seen his doctor on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Lieutenant Mercaldi responded that he didn't ask his doctor because Chief Grace called him after he went to see the doctor.

Commissioner Klein further stated that this kind of meeting is accountability. They are not unsympathetic to his medical condition, they want him to get better, but they weren't seeing the kind of accountability that he would expect of a Lieutenant. Commissioner Klein stated that they will need some answers at the next meeting. As soon as he could get the information, get it to Deputy Chief Grace.

President Rosenberg stated that the questions have to be answered and any reports that he has on his medical condition from the last two months up to the present, they will need to see at next month's meeting.

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

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

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

7. Policy and Procedure review.

None.

8. 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 6:25 p.m.