

March 23, 2011
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, Meszoros, Rodriguez and Fire Chief Rooney

Absent: Commissioner Mary Lee

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

Upon arrival of Union President Whitbread to the meeting, President Rosenberg explained the new Form adopted for Disability Retirement because he was not in attendance when Phil White presented it to the Board.

Old Business

1. Local 834 – Grievance 2011-4; Random Alcohol Test.

Union President Whitbread represented that the Grievant had a family issue to take care of and was moving the Grievance to the State Labor Board.

Commissioner Klein asked what the issue was. Union President Whitbread responded there is no alcohol testing on the job. Union President Whitbread said he wasn't discussing the case, he was answering the question.

Commissioner Klein stated that they needed to be informed and didn't want it to be swept out the door without even knowing what was happening.

Deputy Chief Grace represented that this involved a post accident, and when that happens, the driver is suppose to get tested. The driver of the fire vehicle got tested and the results were positive for a controlled substance. Under the policy, the employee is to be mandated to successfully complete a detox rehab program as recommended under supervision of EAP. This is a onetime only opportunity. Any breach of the employee's after care treatment will lead to the dismissal of the employee. After he completed his program, this was what the Counselor recommended and this is what the Department abided with. It is a random scheduling of the employee.

2. Local 834 – Grievance 2011-5; FF Ronald Reed, Overtime List.
3. Local 834 – Grievance 2011-6; Overtime Refusals.

Union President Whitbread represented that he spoke with Deputy Chief Petrucelli and they are working to resolve the grievances, however, he requested to have the time frames waived and to move both grievances 2011-5 and 2011-6 to the State level. It was agreed.

New Business

1. Communications:
 - a. None.
2. Commissioner Klein motioned to remove Florence Broad Imre, deceased February 8, 2011, from the Widow's Pension List, and refer to the Board of Trustees, Pension Plan A, for implementation; Commissioner Ana Garcia seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.
3. Commissioner Klein motioned to remove Retired PE Edward Terepka, deceased February 18, 2011, 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.
4. Commissioner Meszoros motioned to remove Firefighter Anthony Paul Piantedosi, deceased March 5, 2011, 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.
5. Commissioner Ana Garcia motioned to grant a Widow's Pension request to Antoinette Piantedosi, widow of Retired FF Anthony Piantedosi, effective March 6, 2011, and refer to the Board of Trustees, Pension Plan A, for implementation; Commissioner Meszoros seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.
6. Executive Session for attendance review of the following individuals:
 - a. LT Marc Strickland (B) (Tabled until April)
 - b. LT Frank Mercaldi (B) (Tabled until May)
 - c. FF Montique Pettway (B) – Executive Session was waived.

President Rosenberg stated that the Doctor's letter was pretty clear that FF Pettway couldn't come back to work at this point. Her baby is due June 15, 2011.

Union President Whitbread stated that nothing was going to change for Montique. He hoped that the Board would not expect her to come back next month or month to month.

President Rosenberg responded that no one suggested that and it was clear she can't come back to work and wished her good luck.

d. P/FI Robert McNellis (B) – Executive Session was waived.

P/FI McNellis represented that he received a series of injections in his back, with no real improvement, and saw a physician yesterday for an evaluation for work capacity and should have the doctor's report in 10 days.

Commissioner Klein motioned to table until the April meeting; Commissioner Ana Garcia seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

e. FF Mark Bigard (B) (Tabled until April)

f. FF Autumn Waggoner (B)

Deputy Chief Grace represented that Fire Fighter Waggoner called and said she could not come tonight because of the snow. He also stated that the Board had documentation from the care provider answering the questions. She is to go for a recheck on April 3rd or 4th. She should be coming back to full duty in approximately 6 weeks.

Commissioner Klein motioned to table until the April meeting; Commissioner Ana Garcia seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

7. Commissioner Ana Garcia 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 represented that Labor Relations Officer Phil White prepared a form entitled Notice Regarding Disability Retirement which Attorney Mitola approved and a copy was distributed to everyone. Phil White represented that it was not a policy, but a form for the Board to use. There was a question recently in Wethersfield as to whether somebody was appropriately notified as to how much time they had to turn in their paperwork and there seemed to be a lot of confusion. This is a form entitled Notice Regarding Disability Retirement which could be used to eliminate confusion. Insert the date, fire fighter's name and then signing it, and then they are duly notified of what they need to do to have their paperwork in.

Commissioner Klein motioned to adopt use of the form notifying Fire Fighters who are applying for disability retirement; Commissioner Meszoros seconded and the Board passed it unanimously.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.