

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Mayor Barbara C. Smyth
Commissioner/Pastor Oscar Destruge
Commissioner rabbi ita paskind
Commissioner Howard Dixon
Commissioner Steve Ferguson

**CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – MAY 19, 2026
VIA ZOOM AND 121 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, 3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

ATTENDEES: Oscar Destruge, Howard Dixon, Steve Ferguson, Ita Paskind, Mayor Barbara Smyth.

STAFF: Chief Edward McCabe, Assistant Fire Chief of Administration Mark Conte, Assistant Fire Chief of Operations Timothy Reardon, Fire Marshal Troy Donohue, Training Director Roy Gagne, Michele DeLuca (Emergency Management).

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barbara Smyth called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the regular meeting of the Fire Commission.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Barbara Smyth conducted the roll call. Present were Mayor Barbara Smyth, Commissioner Oscar Destruge, and Commissioner Steve Ferguson. A quorum was present.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Mayor Barbara Smyth asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

**** MR. DESTRUGE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

There were no changes, deletions, or corrections.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public participation.

V. REPORTS

A. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Edward McCabe presented the budget report for the end of April 2026, noting the department was ten months into the fiscal year and in a solid position. Salaries were at approximately 81.5% spent, \$239,000 favorable to plan. Overtime was at just under 81% spent, \$109,000 favorable. Overall, the department had spent 82.6% of the budget and was tracking approximately \$164,000 under budget. He stated they would monitor the final months closely as margins remained tight.

B. ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

Assistant Chief Mark Conte provided updates on buildings and maintenance. For Station 3 (owned by the 3rd Taxing District), paving of the parking lot and driveway, exterior painting of trim, and full window replacement (due to storm damage) were planned and funded by the District. For Station 4, the renovation project was on track, with bids expected next week and a goal to start construction in August or September. Citywide, the Guardian was taking over facilities management, including new furnace maintenance/emergency services and life safety systems contracts. Inspections were beginning at Station 1.

C. ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

Assistant Chief Timothy Reardon reported 676 calls in April 2026, averaging 22.5 calls per day. Updates on apparatus included a new ladder truck proceeding through Common Council and a new rescue truck nearing pre-build inspection in Wisconsin. A new assistant mechanic, Leo da Silva, was recently hired. Operations updates included completed confined space and rope rescue training, and delivery of new thermal imaging cameras for every firefighter position. Notable incidents included a detached garage fire on Sherwood Street, a basement fire on Stonybrook Road, a vehicle crashing into a house on North Taylor Avenue, and a serious motorcycle accident on I-95.

D. FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Fire Marshal Troy Donohue summarized activities for March and April, including 609 inspections covering 15,811 units and requests for smoke detector evaluations/installations. He thanked Lowe's for donating 10-year lithium ion smoke and CO detectors. Four fire life safety public education events were held. Fees collected totaled \$6,905.99. Nineteen investigations were conducted. He congratulated staff members for completing certificate requirements and thanked Walmart for donating water.

E. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Michelle DeLuca provided an update on emergency management activities, including regional and state meetings, summer safety planning, review of extreme heat/air quality protocols, coordination for potential warming center expansions, and distribution of water bottles with

safety messages to vulnerable populations. Hurricane season messaging was also planned for June 1.

F. TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Roy Gagne reported that confined space training was completed for the year, annual physicals were underway, CPR refreshers were nearly finished, and dispatcher ride-along training was scheduled. Joint positioning training with the Police Department was delivered. The Rescue Company was training on patient disentanglement from machinery. Training was actively occurring at the vacant house on 19.5 Clinton Avenue for engine, truck, and rescue operations. He attended career days and noted upcoming training at another donated property on Flax Hill.

G. LOCAL 830 REPORTS

There were no items.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Edward McCabe presented three thank you letters: one from a family displaced by a fire on Fulmar Lane thanking firefighters for compassion in recovering their pet; one from the wife of a cardiac arrest survivor on Main Avenue; and one from the Wilton Police Chief thanking ladder company personnel for assisting with a flagpole issue. He noted the engine company from the cardiac arrest call would be recognized at Norwalk Hospital.

I. PERSONNEL

There were no items.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There were no items.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. DESTRUGE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Baldwin
Recording Secretary