

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE
COMMISSIONER RABBI ITA PASKIND
COMMISSIONER HOWARD DIXON

FIRE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Via Zoom /Tele Conference

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner/Pastor Oscar Destruge;
Commissioner Howard Dixon; Commissioner Rabbi Ita Paskind

OTHERS: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Coppola;
Assistant Chief Mark Conte; Assistant Fire Chief Edward McCabe;
Acting Fire Marshal Kirk McDonald, Michele DeLuca, Emergency
Management; Linda Shields

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Rilling called the roll. A quorum was present.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2025

**** COMMISSIONER/PASTOR DESTRUGE MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE
JANUARY 21, 2025 MEETING.**

Page 2, under Budget Report, paragraph 2, line 2: please change the following from:

“increase by \$1,660 a month” to “increase by \$1,660 annually”

Page 3, under Fire Marshal’s Report, line 1, please change the following from:

“Acting Fire Chief McDonald” to “Acting Fire Marshal McDonald”

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 2025
AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. REPORTS

A. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

1. Budget Reports

Chief Gatto said that the department was doing well with the budget. The regular account is at 52% and Overtime is holding at 55%. They are under the normal 58% budget expenditures for this portion of the year.

B. ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

Assistant Chief Conte presented his report to the Commissioners.

1. Buildings

a. Station 1: Apparatus Floor

Final project pricing is being finalized for submission to the appropriate committees.

b. Station 3: Apparatus Floor

Engine 3 has been relocated back to Station 3.

The overhead door will be installed upon arrival.

Final pictures of the new floor are attached.

c. Station 4: Building Renovation

The final cost analysis report has been completed and submitted.

Guardian continues to perform repairs as needed.

d. Citywide: Overhead Door Replacement

All doors have been ordered. Installation will begin upon delivery.

C. ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

Assistant Chief McCabe presented his report.

1. Calls in January 2025

For January 2025, there were 667 incidents, averaging 21.5 per day.

The January Fire Calls included 18 fires and 28 rescues of which 23 involved motor vehicles. The Department responded to 394 EMS calls, 31 hazardous conditions, 21 service calls; 139 fire alarms and 36 good intents.

2. Summary of Calls in 2025

From January 1st through January 31st, there was a total of 667 incidents and 1,106 total runs.

3. Fire Apparatus

a. Pierce Manufacturing update on delivery dates for engines and rescue truck. The two engines are slated for August in 2026 and the rescue truck is slated for 2027.

4. Operations

- a. Standard Operating Procedures updated for regional hazardous materials responses, Rowayton structure fires, and truck company fireground operations. A brief discussion about meeting with the Sixth Taxing District Commissioners about the regular response of NFD to structure fires in Rowayton.
- b. Ongoing coordination with Dispatch supervisors to improve communications and training for fireground activities

5. Notable Incidents

Assistant Chief McCabe reviewed the details from each of the following incidents:

- a. House fire, 17 Dairy Farm Rd.
- b. House fire, 1 Cudlipp St. Rowayton
- c. Structure fire, 14 Canfield Ave.

D. FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Acting Fire Marshal McDonald presented his report.

1. Summary of Activities

2. Fire Reports

3. Fire Marshal Fees

Acting Fire Marshal McDonald greeted the Commissioners and presented his report. There were 117 inspections in December. There were 3 notifications. There were 6 Public Education events and 26 Plan Reviews which yielded \$4,450 in revenue. Three Liquor Licenses were issued for \$195. The total income for the month of September was \$4,645.

There were 13 fire investigations which were 7 fires and 6 code violations. The multi-unit inspections continued on two sites with 205 unit inspections.

E. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Emergency Management Update

Ms. DeLuca said there have been weekly snow storms. One of the recent storms caused some power outages, but the power has been restored to all residents.

There have been some meetings with Senators Himes and Blumenthal about potential changes with the new Federal administration.

Ms. DeLuca said that she contacted the Norwalk Health Department about H5N1 and Ms. DeLuca will be keeping everyone updated.

F. TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Deputy Chief Coppola greeted the Commissioners and presented his report.

1. Current Training Activities

a. Utilization of houses on Oxford Street (at the new school construction site) slated for demolition for hands on destructive training, including the following tactical disciplines:

Vertical Ventilation (Roof Cutting)

House line stretches

Window cut downs for RIT operations

Wall breaching for self-rescue

Window Ventilation

Vent-Enter-Search techniques

Aerial Positioning

Portable and roof ladder evolutions

Overhaul techniques

Balloon-Frame building construction familiarization

b. Pre-Incidents Planning for data for First Due software

c. First-Due Software initial training

d. Company Officer training workshop

2. Completed Training Activities

a. EMT/EMR/CPR Recertification Course

b. SCBA Respirator Fit Tests

c. Attenuator truck (TAC-1) training for all station 2 personnel

3. Upcoming/Scheduled Training Activities

- a. Deputy Chief Promotional Examination (April/May 205)
- b. Area familiarization of new Norwalk High School construction project
- c. Blood drawings for 2025 NFPA 1582/OSHA/DOT Medical Evaluations
- d. Medical Evaluations (Physicals) for 2025

5. Notable Incidents

Commissioner Dixon asked if Engine 5 was first to respond to the Cudlipp Street fire. Assistant Chief McCabe confirmed that Engine 5 was the first at the scene.

G. LOCAL 830 REPORTS

There were no items to consider at this time.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

1. See Letters

Chief Gatto reviewed the details of the email from Bobby Counihan regarding the house fire at his home in Rowayton. A copy of the email was included in the information packet.

I. PERSONNEL

There were no items to consider at this time.

J. OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on Port Security Grant

Chief Gatto said that in FY 2021, the department was looking to replace a 1985 boat and a vendor had said that they would be able to refurbish the boat, but has not able to do so. The department applied for a grant extension from FEMA and now have until 2025. A replacement boat has been found in Florida for about \$220,000. This boat will have a pump and electronics. It is under the allocated budget.

K. NEW BUSINESS

There were no items to consider at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER/PASTOR DESTRUGE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services