

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE
COMMISSIONER LARRY L. BENTLEY

REGULAR MEETING
December 15, 2020

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Larry Bentley,
Commissioner Oscar Destruge

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Deputy Chief McCallum; Michelle
DeLuca, Emergency Management; Raymond Burney, Personnel
Director; William Ireland, Local 830

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting – November 17, 2020

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2020.**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 2, under **Regular Meeting – October 20, 2020**. please change the following motion from:

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2020.**

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2020 AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2020.**

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2020 AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to consider at this time.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Emergency Management Update.

Ms. DeLuca presented her report.

A significant snow event is expected tomorrow and the EOC will be open for a portion for the day. The snow is expected to be a heavy snow rather than a fluffy snow. The first EOC briefing will be held via Zoom.

Work on the USDA Food Distribution and evaluation along with some of the unmet needs, is still ongoing, particularly with the holidays coming up.

There are plans in place for moving shelter residents to hotels and those who need shelter will be taken to the shelters.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT.

a. Budget Report.

Chief Gatto presented his report. This is the fifth month of the budget year. The Department is currently at 41.9%. The new raises and retro payments have been paid from the Salary Account. The Firefighter overtime budget is being carefully monitored.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Operations Report.

Chief Gatto presented the Operations Report. There was a slight increase in the number of calls in November.

Chief Gatto reviewed the significant fire calls including a fatal car accident on November 11, 2020.

Commissioner Destrugge noted that the report was not included in the meeting packet.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

- a. Summary of Activities.**
- b. Fire Reports.**
- c. Fire Marshal Fees.**

Deputy Fire Marshal McDonnell presented his report which included 91 inspections and 6 notifications.

Mayor Rilling asked for an update on construction. Deputy Fire Marshal McDonnell said that there were renewals for liquor licenses and construction. One inspector is on leave and another just returned to full time duty.

Mayor Rilling asked about the use of the part time fire inspectors. Chief Gatto updated the Commission on the status of the two part time fire inspectors. Discussion followed.

TRAINING'S DIVISION REPORT.

Company Training Objectives

- **Vehicle stabilizations for Extrication**
- **Review Scott Pak-Tracker Locator system**
- **Issue and Review new COVID-19 Response Updates**

Deputy Chief McCallum reviewed the training sessions that were given. He noted that the Extrication training was very helpful with the serious auto accident. The Scott Pak-Tracker is used to locate trapped firefighters, so the training is critical.

Chief Gatto said that they will be able to start with the vaccine sometime next week. Approximately 70 members of the 132 firefighter staff who are willing to be vaccinated. He said that the Department will not make it mandatory. Mr. Burney said that they could not make the vaccine mandatory. Discussion followed.

LOCAL 830 REPORT

There were no items to discuss.

Commissioner Destruge said that the Santa Fire Truck was being missed sorely. He thanked the Union for their efforts in that area.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Building Repairs.

- Broad River – Construction continues. The appliances and counters have not been shipped, but are expected in the next few weeks. Once they are installed, the firefighters will be able to use the kitchen again.

NEW BUSINESS.

Update on RFP for Firefighter Entry Level Exam.

Chief Gatto said according to the schedule, the electronic submission deadline was today. Once they get a hard copy by December 17th, it will be reviewed and the week of January 11th, they will schedule interviews.

CORRESPONDENCE

There is no correspondence to consider at this time.

PERSONNEL

- **Discussion of New Assistant Chief Position**
- **Discussion on Possible Disability Pension**
- **Update on Probationary Firefighters**

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL ISSUES:**

- **DISCUSSION OF NEW ASSISTANT CHIEF POSITION**
- **DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE DISABILITY PENSION**
- **UPDATE ON PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTERS**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Mr. Burney and Chief Gatto entered into Executive Session at 3:47 p.m. They returned to public session at 5:04 p.m. No motions were made or actions taken during Executive Session.

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE DISABILITY PENSION FOR FIREMAN KOSMAS KALMANIDIS.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO EXTEND THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD FOR SIX MONTHS FOR FIREFIGHTER KRISTI SMITH.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO EXTEND THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD FOR SIX MONTHS FOR FIREFIGHTER LAUREN ROACH.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO AUTHORIZE MR. BURNEY AND CHIEF GATTO TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE TWO CANDIDATES RECOMMENDED BY THE PANEL, DEPUTY CHIEF AL BASSETT & CAPTAIN ED MCCABE, FOR PROMOTION TO ASSISTANT CHIEF.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services