

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 20, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: Carol Andreoli; Mayor Richard A. Moccia

STAFF: Denis McCarthy, Fire Chief; Assistant Chief Lawrence Riley;
Michelle Deluca, Emergency Management

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Ms. Andreoli.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OCTOBER 16, 2012 MEETING

**** MAYOR MOCCIA MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE
OCTOBER 16, 2012 MEETING AS SUBMITTED.
** MS. ANDREOLI SECONDED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Action Items:

Recognition: Matt Walker for Water Rescue October 27, 2012

Chief McCarthy stated that there was a ceremony in Stamford but Matt was unable to attend, and he read from the report the details of the water rescue at Vets Park. Matt Walker was presented with a special commendation and he and his family were recognized by Mayor Moccia and the Fire Commissioners with the award and photographs for the newspaper.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief McCarthy stated that the primary element of his report is the review of Super Storm Sandy, and he commended the Department and those involved with the Emergency Operations Center. He stated that those in the Dispatch Unit really proved themselves and everyone performed with extraordinary efforts, and he commended all involved with the 24/7 efforts with the shelter at Brien McMahon. He recognized Ms. Deluca for her dedication and continual outstanding level of service, and stated that all the efforts with emergency planning and the learning paid off greatly.

Chief McCarthy stated that between October 29 and October 31, the Fire Department responded to 200+ calls related to storm, 140 people were removed by boat and/or the fire department "high water truck" from low lying areas, most of them from the Harborview/Woodward Avenue areas.

Chief McCarthy stated that the budget reports in the packet were self explanatory and that there were no other issues on the budget.

Fire Station Project Report

Chief McCarthy stated that he is very pleased with the progress, and all is going well and on track with the budget and about one month behind schedule due to the power outages from the storm. He explained that in an effort to save money on the project, it was decided not to install the expensive lighting due to the circuitry involved. Mayor Moccia noted that furniture from Norden may be available, and Chief McCarthy should contact them.

Assistant Chief Report

Chief McCarthy referred to the Operations Report and written report of notable incidents for October 2012 and stated that the report was self explanatory and he highlighted that the major incidents as noted:

NOTABLE INCIDENTS

10.27, 16:51, Vets Park, MVA, car in the water. ED arrived to find a car completely submerged in the boat basin on the east side of the park. A civilian and an off duty Stamford firefighter had entered the water attempting to remove the two occupants. Firefighters entered the water and removed the occupants after breaking the rear window. Both occupants were taken to Norwalk Hospital. One of the victims has since passed away.

Between October 29 and October 31, the Eire Department responded to 200+ calls related to Super storm "Sandy". 140 people were removed by boat and/or the fire department "high water truck" from low lying areas, most of them from the Harborview/Woodward Avenue area.

EQUIPMENT AND BUILDINGS

Assistant Chief Riley added that the Fire Boat has been delivered and is in operation and has already been used for a marine rescue. The new fire boat was delivered and the primary crews received training on its operation from factory representatives. "MU 238" is now in service at the Vet's Park docks.

FIRE MARSHALL'S REPORT

Chief McCarthy presented the report of a total of nearly 262 units for 284 hours, mostly were routine and stated that an additional \$4,611 in fees was collected in October bringing the year-to-date total to nearly \$30,000.

Training Report

Recruit Training

Chief McCarthy stated that there are 1,900 applicants for the Firefighter's test that will be held

on December 8 at Norwalk High School

Emergency Management

Ms. Deluca stated that there was an after-action review last week and they will summarize the narrative and issue a formal report. She added that there needs to be a better assessment with FEMA and the definitions for rebuilding assistance. She added that it may take up to a year for paperwork to be filed and processed. Mayor Moccia noted that paperwork can wait, and the important measure is that systems are in place to save lives. Ms. Deluca added that the City worked well with the many departments involved with the shelter including Community Action, Norwalk Transit, the Housing Authority, the Cafeteria workers, and the Red Cross and the crew from Ameri-Corps. She reported that the shelter was open for eight days serving 276 residents.

Mayor Moccia noted that it will be announced from his office that proceeds from the Mayor's Ball will be designed to the Fairfield County Community Action for assistance to victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Mayor Moccia acknowledged the Fire Department for all the hard work involved with Hurricane Sandy and he recognized those who worked above and beyond the call of duty with extended hours and days of service. He commended the dispatchers and those involved with the Emergency Operations Center and stated that all the efforts with emergency planning and the learning paid off greatly.

Mayor Moccia added that cooperative efforts with both the Fire Department and the Police Department were commendable, they all did an amazing job, and he thanked the department for their extraordinary efforts and the collaborative relationship that exists between the two forces.

Union President Report – There was no report.

Personnel - There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Knox
Telesco Secretarial Services