

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT

121 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 06854



Tel: (203) 854-0200

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

121 CONNECTICUT AVENUE

NOVEMBER 16, 2010
5:00P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Carol Andreoli, Chair; Mayor Richard Moccia.

STAFF: Fire Chief Denis McCarthy, Assistant Fire Chief
Lawrence Reilly, Deputy Chief Gino Gatto

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Andreoli called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – September 21, 2010

**** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2010.**

**** MS. ANDREOLI SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to discuss at this time.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

10/11 Budget Report – Chief McCarthy said that there may be a surplus in the budget due to a number of retirements, but there will be a number of replacement hires. Funds are being set aside for future recruitment. Last time, there were 1,000 candidates and the department was able to recoup some of the costs.

The discussion then moved to the entrance fees and training exams. Assistant Chief Reilly suggested that payment for the test be made in advance. Last time, there were 900 applicants expected, but only 600 showed up.

Chief McCarthy said that there was a real need for cars for the Department. He said that he had spoken to Mr. Hamilton about this. If there is any surplus in the budget, it will be directed towards the cost of replacement vehicles. Chief McCarthy said that he had checked with Mr. Foley about using the fleet cars, but that will not be possible. Discussion followed.

11/12 Budget Report. - Next year's budget has been reviewed and the department will move from six current vacancies to eight vacancies. The promotions will take place in January, which will mean only a half year's increase.

Fire Station Project Report – A meeting has taken place with the architects about the Fire Station. The Mayor said that he would prefer to have a major overhaul for the entire station rather than a quick fix because the major overhaul will cost less in the long run. Chief McCarthy agreed. The cost for the architect and the project manager has come in under budget.

ASSISTANT CHIEF REPORT

Operations Report – Assistant Chief Reilly said that last month, there were a number of serious accidents where occupants were extracted from the vehicles. There were two fatalities.

Assistant Chief Reilly then went on to mention Jeff Patnaude, a Norwalk Boy Scout that was recently cited by the Common Council for his project of painting fire hydrants in the Main Street/West Rocks area.

Twelve Norwalk Firefighters were honored at a recent Connecticut Exchange Club dinner on October 21st due to their heroic efforts in a drowning rescue in the Norwalk River.

A letter was received from a resident on Highview Avenue that expressed appreciation for the Department following a recent chimney fire at their residence.

Truck #2 is scheduled to be finished soon. Delivery is expected on or about December 1st. More cold water rescue gear has been purchased through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program.

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Summary of Activities – Chief McCarthy gave a quick overview of recent events.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management Update – Ms. DeLuca said that last year, there was a Black Friday Management program for the retailers at the DoubleTree Hotel. This will be done again and between 25 and 30 retailers have been invited. The new website has been a great resource and

safety tips along with Winter Preparedness. It was noted that many of the retailers were starting on their sales earlier and there was less of an emphasis on Black Friday.

A program on Safe Food Handling for volunteers and working with Social Service Providers in the New Year is planned.

Ms. DelVecchio is looking to have a Public Safety IT person that would concentrate on the Fire and Police Departments. Ms. DeLuca and Mr. Broderick have been working closely together on fire preventions. Ms. DeLuca has done a number of presentations recently. Costco has done a display on disaster preparedness.

TRAINING REPORT

Recruit Training – Deputy Chief Gatto reviewed the highlights of his written report. One recruit at the Fire Academy hurt his knee and subsequently resigned from the Department. The other three candidates are doing well. Due to the resignation, there will be five candidates in next year's class.

Educational Comments - Deputy Chief Gatto reviewed the various training exercises that the firefighters had participated in and the various school tours that were listed in his written report.

Promotional Exams –This topic was discussed earlier in the meeting.

UNION PRESIDENT REPORT

There was no report from the Union and no Union Representative present.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items to discuss.

PERSONNEL

Retirement : Inspector Kenneth Hall

Chief McCarthy said that he has received a letter of retirement from Fire Inspector Ken Hall. Copies of the letter were given to the Commissioners.

**** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ACCEPT WITH REGRET THE RETIREMENT REQUEST FROM FIRE INSPECTOR KEN HALL EFFECTIVE JANUARY 7, 2011.**

**** MS. ANDREOLI SECONDED.**

Both the Mayor and Ms. Andreoli expressed their appreciation for all the years of service and dedication that Fire Inspector Ken Hall gave to the City.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chief McCarthy commented that because of this the Fire Inspector's exam has been scheduled for December.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** MS. ANDREOLI SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Chief McCarthy and Assistant Chief Reilly entered into Executive Session at 5:50 p.m. They returned to public session at 5:59 p.m. No actions or votes were taken during the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. ANDREOLI SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services