

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE

REGULAR MEETING

November 15, 2022

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Tele Conference

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Oscar Destruge

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Michele DeLuca, Emergency Management, Assistant Chief Mark Conte; Assistant Chief Edward McCabe; Fire Marshal Broderick Sawyer; Tina Fogell, Chief Human Resources Officer; Linda Shields; Deputy Chief Jonathan Maggio

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

- October 18, 2022

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 18, 2022 MEETING.**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 1, and forward, please change all references to "Commissioner Desturge" to "Commissioner Destruge"

Page 1, please correct the date to October 18 in the footer.

Page 2, please change all references to "Assistant McCabe" to "Assistant Chief McCabe".

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2022 AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

There are no items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Budget Report

Chief Gatto presented his report. The Department is coming in below budget at 29.9% after the first third of the budget year. There is a possibility of 8 or 9 vacancies, which will affect the overtime account. Sick time has decreased.

Commissioner Destruge requested an updated listing of staff due to the recent changes.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

Assistant Chief Conte presented his report.

a. Adashi Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) and Command Software Upgrade

- **Equipment ordered.**
- **Software Build in Process.**

b. Station Alerting System Upgrade

- **System Build in Process.**

c. Buildings

- **Station 3 Apparatus Floor**
 - **Cost Analysis in Process.**
- **Station 5 New Roof Installation**
 - **Contract Awarding in Process.**
- **Station 5 Bathroom Renovation**
 - **Cost Analysis in process.**

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

Assistant Chief McCabe then presented his report.

a. Specifications for Norwalk's next two fire engines have been completed and sent to purchasing to be put out to bid.

b. Deputy Chief Markowitz has pre-planned and developed a standard response to fire alarms and emergencies at the newly renovated Jefferson School.

c. We are reviewing our tactics, equipment, and procedures for fighting fires in high-rise residential buildings.

d. Preparations are being made for onboarding our next recruit candidates to have them ready to attend the February CT Fire Academy Class.

Chief McCabe then reviewed the number of calls. In October, there were 780 incidents including 12 fires, 4 of which were building fires. There were 45 rescues including 28 vehicle accidents. There were 465 EMS calls and 136 fire alarms, most of which were unintentional false alarms. So far, the Department has responded to 10,035 total runs.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Fire Marshal Sawyer presented the report as detailed in the Commissioners' packets.

- **Summary of Activities**
- **Fire Reports**
- **Fire Marshal Fees**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Ms. DeLuca presented her report. The annual snow briefing was held the previous day. The focus is on holiday safety and work is underway with the Police Department regarding the Active Shooter guide. Ms. DeLuca said that there may be some Active Shooter response training for the City staff in the new year. The discussion moved to possibly holding training for the various houses of worship after the holidays.

TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Deputy Chief Maggio presented his report.

- a. Current Training Activities**
 - 1. Engine Company – Pump and Driver Training**
 - 2. Ladder Company – Driver/Tiller Training**
 - 3. Annual Fit for Duty Medical Physicals**
 - 4. Wellness Coordinator**
 - i) Daily Injury Prevention Program**
 - ii) Wellness Re-Assessments Oct/Nov**
 - 5. Drafting – Water Supply (see pictures #1 & 2)**
- b. Completed Training**
 - 1. Captain's Promotional Exam**
 - 2. Mask Fit Testing**
 - 3. Lithium-Ion Battery Fires**
 - 4. Attack Hose Testing (see picture #3)**
 - 5. Limited Visibility Vessel Navigation (see pictures #4 & 5)**
- c. Upcoming/Scheduled:**
 - 1. Ground Ladder Deployment**

- 2. Metro North Rail Safety**
- 3. Nutrition Class**
- 4. Automatic Sprinkler Systems**
- 5. Standpipe Operations**
- 6. Recruit Firefighter Training**

Deputy Chief Maggio spoke about the recent increase in Lithium Ion battery fires and noted that there had been a number of fires in other locations that were caused by scooter or hover boards which are normally stored in people's homes. These type of fires are very fast moving.

LOCAL 830 REPORT

There were no items to consider at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items to consider at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

a. DROP Pension

Chief Gatto announced that a firefighter had entered into the Drop Program as of February 2023.

b. OSHA Citation

Chief Gatto said that following the OSHA visit, there were some minor issues such as Exit signs that needed to be brought into compliance and concerns about extension cords. The biggest issue was in regard to old turn out gear. He said that the staff had been taking photos of the areas that were problematic showing the corrections that had been made.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Gatto said that there was a thank you letter from Pastor Kassimis at Word Alive Bible Church for sending a fire truck as a Touch A Truck exhibit at their annual Trunk or Treat event.

PERSONNEL

Executive Session: Discuss Personnel

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Chief Gatto and Ms. Fogell entered into Executive Session at 3:37 p.m. to discuss Personnel issues. They returned to Public Session at 3:51 p.m. No actions were taken or motions made during Executive Session.

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA REGARDING THE FIREFIGHTERS TURN OUT GEAR.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chief Gatto said that OSHA was concerned about the fire fighter's second set of turn out gear is older than 10 years old. McCabe said that Norwalk's SOP was to have fire fighters wash their primary turn out gear upon returning to the station to remove any carcinogens. The gear will cost approximately \$3,000 per set.

Mayor Rilling requested a cost analysis and then the next step will be discussing how to finance this. He noted that they have 60 days to come into compliance.

Chief Gatto said that there was a remaining item for the Commission to discuss regarded Station 4.

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ADD AN ITEM REGARDING STATION 4 REPAIRS TO THE AGENDA.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Assistant Chief Conte then gave a brief overview of the plan to relocate Truck 1 to Station 4 and relocate Rescue 1 to Broad River. This will allow for more equitable distribution of resources. He reviewed the details and said that they would be able to renovate the building and upgrade the windows. He said that according to Antonozzi, it would be about \$2.5 million.

Mayor Rilling asked for a cost analysis and suggested they check with Mr. Dachowitz as to whether this could be considered as a Capital Project. Discussion followed.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services