

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 21, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners: Irene Dixon, Oscar Destruge; Mayor Harry Rilling.

STAFF: Denis McCarthy, Fire Chief; Assistant Chief Lawrence Reilly;
Todd Smith, Training; Chris Hansen, Fire Marshal,
Michelle Deluca, Emergency Operations;
Lefty Petridis, Union Representative (5:45 p.m.)

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Destruge called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections noted:

Page 1: The date at the header should read September 16, 2014. Under approval of minutes, change 'AS SUBMITTED' to 'AS AMENDED WITH CORRECTIONS NOTED'.

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF
THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2014 MEETING AS AMENDED WITH CORRECTIONS
NOTED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Station Renovations

Chief McCarthy provided a follow up on comments from last meeting and gave an overview of the terms of the Van Zant lease:

\$31,000/year – we pay for maintenance, they pay for infrastructure:

\$24,000 HVAC upgrade

2015-16: \$30,000 to finish upgrades/asbestos removal from tiles/additional bathroom.

Split costs to finish station at no labor cost.

City to install new tin ceiling.

Meet with BET to include in capital budget:

Address Cranbury neighborhood protection.

Hire a consultant to look at all station options.

Mayor Rilling asked what alternatives are expected other than those recommendations from the Matrix Study. Chief McCarthy explained that there will be a cost/benefit study and analysis of the options.

Budget

Chief McCarthy stated that the budget is tracking at 25% of budget which is a comparable percentage versus expenditures.

Cadet Program

Chief reported that he continues to be impressed with the professionalism and decorum with how the program is being managed and conducted by the Police Department. He noted that Officer Holmes conducts the group and they are working on outreach to cadets for recruits. He noted that there will be a presentation on November 3rd.

Fire Fighter Recruitment Report

Chief McCarthy reported that there is an RFP that has been vetted through the Personnel Department to hire a consultant to craft a recruitment process. Chief noted that he has met with the new Personnel Director, Emmett Hibson on the lay out of diversity goals to achieve greater results at the end of the hiring process.

There was discussion on banding of testing to weigh factors not just test scores, but the overall test assessment, process for scoring, proctoring and operational needs.

ASSISTANT CHIEF REPORT

Assistant Chief Reilly referred to the report as included in the agenda packet and reviewed the report of notable incidents for September 2014, highlighting the major fires:

09/01. 15:27, 25 Chestnut Street, small fire on second floor deck of an apartment. The Fire Department accessed the deck by ladder and extinguished the fire. The occupant of the apartment was arrested by Police after she refused to allow firefighters to access the deck from the apartment.

09/06. 11:40, Norwalk harbor. a 14' sailboat capsized with one person on board. The occupant was unable to upright the boat and could not get back in the boat. Marine 238 was in the vicinity and righted the boat and assisted the occupant back into the boat. The boat was able to leave the area under sail.

09/06. 16:54, 1 West Avenue, church fire. Fire department units arrived and reported a fire at the top of the steeple of a church. The fire was approximately 125' above street level. Firefighters stretched 500' feet of hose up an interior staircase and ladders to a position approximately 25' below the top of the steeple. They were able to use this hose line to knock down the majority of the fire. A master stream was used from the elevated bucket of a ladder truck to extinguish visible flames on the exterior that the hose line could not reach. The cause of the fire was a lightning strike. The firefighters in the steeple needed to be decontaminated later due to being exposed to large quantities of pigeon and rat droppings in the tower. In some areas the droppings were a foot deep.

09/06, 16:55, Vets Park, Oyster Festival, reports of people trapped under falling tents. A passing thunderstorm blew over/collapsed a number of small tents at the Oyster Festival. The Firefighters assigned to the Fire watch checked all tents for any trapped occupants. No one was trapped or injured.

Notable Incidents – continued

09/09, 08:40. 55 County Street, hazardous materials incident. A school worker sprayed a malathion solution onto a plant outside of the school building. The worker developed a skin rash due to exposure to the solution and was treated at occupational Health. Firefighters also monitored reports of a smell of malathion inside the school. All readings from inside the school were negative, It was determined that an open door allowed some odor to enter the building. DEEP was notified and was on scene.

09/11. 20:17, mutual aid, Bridgeport. The Norwalk section of the Fairfield County Hazardous Incident Response team was activated to report to the scene of a major factory building fire in Bridgeport. Norwalk Firefighters brought Haz Mat 2 to the scene. The fire resulted in a large chemical leak in the area.

09/11, 13:45. Prowitt street, EMS. cardiac arrest. Firefighters administered CPR until EMS arrived on scene.

09/18, 00:05, 2 Westview Lane, car vs. house. A jeep hit the right front corner of a garage then continued on another 50' before striking a tree and coming to a rest. The driver was thrown 30', hitting a stone wall. Firefighters assisted Norwalk EMS with packaging the patient. The garage was determined to be structurally sound.

09/22, 00:49, County Street, EMS, cardiac arrest. Firefighters arrived to find two police officers starting to hook up AED. Firefighters and PD started CPR and used AED until EMS arrived on scene. An additional company was called to the scene for manpower to assist in removing the patient down a tight stairwell.

09/26. 17:24. Martin Luther King Boulevard, car vs. motorcycle. The motorcycle operator was found down on the roadway with a leg injury. Firefighters stabilized the leg until EMS arrived, and then assisted EMS by driving the ambulance to the hospital. 09/27, 09:01, 1-95 southbound. exits 15-15, MVA.

09/27. 19:50, Suncrest Road, EMS. ED assisted EMS with packaging a shooting victim for transport to Norwalk Hospital.

STATIONS AND EQUIPMENT

Construction of the two new pumpers has commenced at the manufacturer's plant in Pennsylvania.

A purchase order has been placed to buy 132 sets of personal escape equipment (PES) to be issued to all line personnel. The total cost of the equipment is \$181,911, with \$158,598 of the cost being covered by a FEMA grant.

There was discussion on receipt of ten I-Pads for the Fire Trucks to replace Tough Books, which are much cheaper, more user friendly and interact with the City GIS software for mapping

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Fire Marshal Hansen was on vacation and his report is included in the agenda packet that summarizes the activity and inspections for the month. He noted that total units were 1624 for over 212 hours representing routine inspections. He added that GIS is available to tap into inspection history at the "touch of a map" to obtain tax assessor's information and graphics can turn into documents. He explained that this brings technology into real time application into a location, and adds many pluses to the inspection area.

TRAINING REPORT

Todd Smith referred to the report as follows:

- Training Folders for all Firefighters Digitized and labeled
- CPR – delayed until January due to Ebola virus.
- VEMS refreshers Start Mid November — Metro North Catenary layer completed and sent to Nate at DPW for inclusion on City GIS Map
- Region 1 Command /Resource Symposium completed on September 24, 2014 at Dolce was a success. – 16 communities participated in engaging program discussions.
- Looking at extending Testing company contract some can get book study list out sooner.
- 2 new ID bar code readers for Firefighters Accountability have been received and training is beginning. Software to be installed and WIFI is needed for state reimbursement.
- Ebola training has taken place with the HazMats (DECON) Trailer. They are operating at a no entry "high risk" mode that must be preceded by Hospital response. He added that there is a training video from the Langley Emergency Hospital doctor that is the credible source in the handling and operation of the gear. He spoke about the expensive nature of the purchase of the full suites and delay in procuring the suits is approximately 90-120 days.

Emergency Management

Ms. Deluca reported:

The DPW Open House was very successful with over 2,000 people and a ton of food was collected for donations.

The EOC HP has added Skype interface into the IPAD system. Testing and upgrade of ales for the system is being done for better interface.

There was a Public Safety meeting held that gave an update on EBOLA from the CDC. A community information session will be held tomorrow night at City Hall in the Concert Hall at 7:00 p.m. She explained that the media component will be discussed to recommend the public check credible resources such as CDC website and handouts. There will be FAQs reviewed along with hazardous materials protection overview. Tim Callahan, Director of the Health Department will cover the agenda along with a review from the Customer Service aspect and call handling from the Mayor's Office. Mayor Rilling noted that a press release from the hospital will be vetted through the departments, and then issued from the Mayor's office for consistency in communications.

Ms. Deluca explained that the plan has been Schools Emergency Plan, as approved by the Central Office, will be reviewed by the state for compliance. Locks have been done and doors numbered, and now there needs to be a key policy for access procedures.

Chief McCarthy added that there is a teacher in charge – Bob Killackey, ROTC who has been at the development stages of the schools' Emergency Preparedness plan. There will be a coordinator at each school that will be engaged as part of the Safety Team.

Chief McCarthy noted that they will continue the District Wide School Safety meetings every three months with the Steering Committee to continue meeting monthly. The next meeting focus is on state mandates. There was mention of the need to develop action plans for after school programs at the schools.

UNION PRESIDENT REPORT

Mr. Petridis provided folders with information packets to the Commissioners.

Chief McCarthy noted that the November meeting will include a proposed action plan for consideration with the current contract, part of the negotiations with the subsequent agreement with an MOU from Mr. Hibson.

OLD BUSINESS/ NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Rilling requested to add an item to the agenda to include the discussion of a settlement of a City claim during the Executive Session.

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE DISCUSSION OF A CLAIM SETTLEMENT TO THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive Session

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ENTER INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SETTLEMENT OF A CLAIM WITH THE CITY; SALARY INCREASES FOR A.C. REILLY AND CHIEF MCCARTHY; EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR CHIEF MCCARTHY.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting went into Executive Session at 5:55 and was reconvened back into public session at 6:50 p.m. There were no votes taken.

Adjournment

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox,

Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk

Board of Fire Commissioners

October 21, 2014

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