

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE

REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 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; Lt. Pete Brown

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

- September 20, 2022

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2022.**

The following correction was noted:

Page 5, under Personnel, please change the following motion from:

**** COMMISSIONER DESTURGE MOVED WITH REGRET TO APPROVE THE
REQUEST FOR A DROP PENSION FOR FIREFIGHTER HECTOR RAMIREZ.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

To

**** COMMISSIONER DESTURGE MOVED WITH REGRET TO APPROVE THE
REQUEST FOR A DISABILITY PENSION FOR FIREFIGHTER HECTOR RAMIREZ.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 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 and stated that they were still under budget. The budget request was approved by the BET.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

Assistant Chief Conte presented his report.

a. Adashi Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) and Command Software Upgrade
Approval for contract execution and hardware upgrade in progress.

b. Station Alerting System Upgrade
Project manager assigned.
Contractor site visit- 09/30.
Project scope and schedule finalization in progress.

Buildings

Station 3 Apparatus Floor
Awaiting Engineer's drawings.

Station 5 New Roof Installation
Currently in the process of seeking additional funding.
P&Z approval was gained at the 09/21 meeting.

Station 5 Bathroom Renovation
Drawings nearing completion.

He noted that they had been approved for the insurance claims. He reviewed the details of remaining items with the Commissioners. Mayor Rilling said that he would like to see the software upgrades and the station alerting system in action.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

Assistant McCabe then presented his report.

a. Local Fire Departments are looking for safe ways to combat Electric Vehicles fires, which burn very hot and require tens of thousands of gallons to extinguish using

traditional methods. NFD hosted a demonstration of a new hose nozzle specifically designed for Electric Vehicle fires. Stamford FD also attended the demonstration. This nozzle and other methods, such as fire suppression blankets, will be tested.

b. Norwalk and regional fire chiefs attended a demonstration of Stamford Fire Department's new Command Car and the software that is utilized in their fire ground command and control. Similar software is scheduled to be implemented in Norwalk in the near future.

c. The twelve firefighters who were hired one year ago have all completed probation and have received excellent reviews from their officers and training director.

d. Chief's interviews have been conducted with additional candidates with the goal of having the selected recruits attend the spring Fire Academy.

Chief McCabe said that they had interviewed at least five lateral transfers and the new training classes will be composed of both lateral transfers and new firefighters.

Chief McCabe then reviewed the number of calls and noted that the calls had increased over last year. He said that emergency medical calls had increased, but added that the number of calls for fire response across the region had increased and were higher than any time in the past.

Commissioner Destruge asked when the new software would be up and running. Chief Conte said that they would be upgrading their hardware and it could take between six to nine months.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

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

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

Mayor Rilling asked how they were doing in terms of numbers of inspections. Fire Marshal Sawyer said that there were 169 inspections previously and now they were up to 204.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Ms. DeLuca presented her report and said that they were adding some additional rain gauges and hoped to post the data on the website for the public.

Ms. DeLuca gave a brief overview of the recent BOE meeting for teams at each of the schools. They have been also thinking about mass causality events like Uvalde and other incidents. The impact on the community can last for years. One incident in any given town will also impact the surrounding towns.

The Person-to-Person van was filled up at the recent Open House.

Mayor Rilling said that the recent shooting in Bristol had affected a number of communities.

TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Chief McCabe said that Deputy Chief Maggio was not able to attend the teleconference. Chief McCabe then presented Deputy Chief Maggio's report to the Commissioners.

a. Current Training Activities

- 1. Captain's Promotional Exam - Written: October 20th, Oral: October 25th and 26th**
- 2. Engine Company – Pump and Driver Training**
- 3. Ladder Company – Driver/Tiller Training**
- 4. Annual Fit for Duty Medical Physicals**
- 5. Lithium-Ion Battery Fires / EV Automobile fires (*see picture 1*)**
- 6. Wellness Coordinator**
 - i) Daily Injury Prevention Program**
 - ii) Wellness Re-Assessments Oct/Nov**

b. Completed Training

- 1. Station 3 (Marine Station)**
 - i) Electronics Raymarine Manufacturer Training October 5th and 6th**
- 2. Cold Water Immersion**
- 3. Long Stretching Attack Hose Lines**
- 4. Vehicle lifting**
 - i) Airbag system (*see picture 2*)**
 - ii) Res Q Jack (*see picture 3*)**
- 5. Patient Packaging: SKED Device, Stokes Basket, 4:1 retrieval with tripod (*see picture*)**

c. Upcoming/scheduled:

- 1. Nutrition Class**
- 2. Metro North Rail Safety**
- 3. Standpipe Operations**
- 4. Drafting Operations**

Commissioner DeStruge said that the photos help the Commissioners understand the complexity of the fires.

Mayor Rilling asked about the details of EV battery fires. Chief McCabe reviewed the details of those battery fires with the Commissioners. He explained that when a EV battery fire takes place, they tend to take a very long time before they can be extinguished. As EVs become more common, the companies will come up with more efficient means of extinguishing the battery fires.

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

Retirement Letter attached

Chief Gatto said that they had received a retirement letter from Deputy Chief Todd Smith, who was scheduled to retire on December 31st. He was asking for his retirement date to be moved up to November 17th.

Mayor Rilling said that they would accept Deputy Chief Smith's retirement with regret.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Gatto said that there were nine photos take at the recent Open House for the Commissioners to view.

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 3:44 p.m. They returned to Public Session at 4:34 p.m. No actions were taken or motions made during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services