

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE

FIRE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2023

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Oscar Destruge

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Fire Chief Mark Conte, Deputy Chief Joseph Coppola, Michele DeLuca, Emergency Management, Assistant Chief Edward McCabe; Fire Marshal Broderick Sawyer; Linda Shields;

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

• September 19, 2023

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 MEETING.**

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

There are no items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Budget Report

The Department is in the first quarter of their budget year. All of the roll over requests were granted and the other accounts are being monitored.

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Mayor Rilling thanked Chief Gatto for closing out the year with a surplus. ODS thanked the Chief for his hard work.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

Assistant Fire Chief Conte presented his report to the Commissioners.

- a. **Adashi Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) and Command Software Upgrade**
 - 1. C&C Command software build is in process.
 - 2. Live training to be scheduled for the command software.
- b. **Station Alerting System Upgrade**
 - 1. System testing and monitor installation in process.
 - 2. The system is scheduled to go live by November.
- c. **State Radio System Migration**
 - 1. New apparatus mobile radio installation completed.
- d. **Buildings**
 - 1. **Station 3: Apparatus Floor**
 - i. Engineer bids were opened on 10/16.
 - ii. The grant agreement with Third Taxing District has been passed by Common Council.
 - 2. **Station 5: Bathroom Renovation**
 - i. Material submittal/procurement in process.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

Assistant Chief McCabe presented his report.

- a. **Chief officers from NFD, NPD, and Norwalk Hospital EMS met to discuss 911 call coding and dispatch procedures to ensure the most practical and expedient assignment of on-duty emergency responders.**
- b. **Interviews were held this week with prospective recruit candidates, some of whom will be advancing to the Fire Commission interview stage.**
- c. **Discussions were held with our fleet mechanics on the best way of addressing the post-COVID difficulties in the fire apparatus industry. Our intent is to make sure that our fleet of front-line and spare apparatus remains safe and serviceable until scheduled replacements can be ordered and delivered.**
- d. **The NFD will be replacing our current body armor and ballistic gear, which is nearing expiration, with new, updated equipment. Enough sets will be purchased for all on-duty fire personnel to be protected in the event that our companies must assist PD and EMS at an active threat incident.**

Assistant Chief McCabe then presented the monthly statistics. There were 735 calls in September of 2023, which averages out to 24.5 per day. There were 16 fires, 44 rescues of which 37 were motor

vehicle accidents and 2 were pedestrians motor vehicle accidents. The Department responded to 429 EMS calls, 34 hazardous conditions, 21 service calls; 133 fire alarms and 58 good intents.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

- a. Summary of Activities**
- b. Fire Reports**
- c. Fire Marshal Fees**

Fire Marshal Sawyer presented his report. He said that his inspection strategy was to start at one side of Connecticut Avenue and down the other, and then move to Westport Avenue. Once those key streets are done, they can focus on Main Avenue and the infill areas.

Mayor Rilling asked if it was still working well with the part time marshals. Fire Marshal Sawyer said that the three Fire Marshals were working out well and they had discovered an illegal apartment earlier in the day. Chief Gatto mentioned that the incident was also included later in the agenda.

The discussion moved to clearing out the backlog.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- a. Emergency Management Update**

Ms. DeLuca presented her report and said that they were hoping for a good turn out despite the predicted rainy weather. The State Disaster exercise will be held on October 18th in New Canaan. The winter safety review will be held with Norwalk Public Works in November/December.

TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Deputy Chief Coppola presented his report to the Commissioners.

- a. *Current Activities***
 - 1. Basic vehicle extrication with Engine Companies facilitated by DCT Coppola & Rescue Captains**
 - 2. Marine operations with recently transferred members of Marine Company (E3/MU238)**
 - 3. Ongoing first-year training with probationary members**
 - 4. Driver training for Engine and Ladder companies**
 - 5. "Q" Licensing training for new drivers**
 - 6. SCBA Respirator Fit Testing**
 - 7. New building construction walk-throughs and tours (Monroe St/S. Main & West Avenue projects)**
 - 8. SCBA Confidence Training including emergency evacuation maneuvers**
 - 9. Lead Climbing gear and operations review**
- b. *Completed Activities***

1. Electric Bus Training
2. Cross training between Engine Companies and Rescue Company
3. Forcible Entry utilizing our FORCE DOOR prop
4. Basic vehicle stabilization at motor vehicle crashes
5. 4-gas detector/meter maintenance and user training

c. Upcoming/Scheduled:

1. *Flashpoint Prop training (Fire Behavior Lab)*
2. Working with COSTCO to utilize vacant Doubletree Hotel for training evolutions
3. N-95 Respirator Fit Testing
4. Next round of Department NFPA Compliant Physicals in process
5. Relay Pumping Drills with Engine Companies
6. Hose testing (Fall 2023)
7. CFA Host Class: Building Construction for First Responders, 11/8 & 11/9
8. CFA Host Class: Fire Service Instructor 1 (Multiple dates in November)
9. Officer development workshops
10. Confined Space Operational refresher training
11. RTF Training with PD/EMS (Active Assailant)
12. Fire safety training with Norwalk Hospital (vacant wing)
13. Roof Rope Rescue Training

Mayor Rilling said they had to be one of the best trained departments in the State.

LOCAL 830 REPORT

There are no items to consider at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on a New Entry Level Exam

Chief Gatto said that the contract had been signed and they were looking at a January 13, 2024 examination.

Update on Part-Time Positions

The three part time Fire Marshals have come on board and are starting field work.

Update on Sale of MU-238

There was a public hearing where no one attended. He said that they would place it on a website called Boat and Harbors which is for the general public. A six month ad will be posted on November 1st. He said that he would contact the Purchasing Agent about how the ad price will be classified.

NEW BUSINESS

Medical Provider Update

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The Department is in the process of replacing the Medical Provider and this is going out to bid. The opening will be on the 26th.

CORRESPONDENCE

There are no items to consider at this time.

PERSONNEL

There are no items to consider at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUCE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services