

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE
COMMISSIONER LARRY L. BENTLEY

REGULAR MEETING
October 16, 2018

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Oscar Destruge,
Commissioner Larry Bentley (3:03 p.m.)

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Assistant Chief Chris King, Deputy Chief
Michael McCallum; Deputy Chief Al Bassett; Fire Marshal
Broderick Sawyer, Michele DeLuca, Deputy Director of
Emergency Management; Mr. Ray Burney, Personnel Director;
Atty. Jeffrey Spahr (3:10 p.m.)

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting – August 21, 2018

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF
AUGUST 21, 2018.**

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2018 AS
CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT.

a. Budget Report

Chief Gatto said that there have been no surprises with the budget so far. He then reviewed the highlights with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Bentley joined the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

A Police representative came forward and said that under former Chief McCarthy, former Chief Reilly and current Fire Chief Gatto, the Police Department SWAT team has been training with the Fire Department and the Public Safety Cadets had participated in a competition recently. The Cadets won first place. The Police representative presented Chief Gatto with a certificate of thanks for his assistance in the training exercises.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Operations Report

Assistant Chief King reviewed the various categories of fire calls as outlined in his reports for both August and September. He noted and described the limited area where the recent tornado touched down in Norwalk.

Atty. Jeffrey Spahr joined the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

a. Summary of Activities

b. Fire Reports

c. Fire Marshal Fees.

Fire Marshal Sawyer presented his report to the Commissioners. Well over 1,000 inspections have been completed, but the calendar resets on January 1st. The residential inspections are being processed. Discussion about keeping the two part time inspectors on followed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Emergency Management Update.

Ms. DeLuca said that the EMS Open House was on Sept 29th. Next year it will be held at the Open Door Shelter.

Ms. DeLuca spoke about the new Cost Sharing software that has been purchased with Public Works. A number of reports have been submitted to the State from the flooding

event on September 25th. This was a good trial run for larger events. It was able to help the family involved with the Glenwood Avenue fire.

TRAINING REPORT.

a. Concentration on Preplanning:

- **Roadway Safety Training for all Firefighters**
- **Four Newer Firefighters Q-License Testing**
- **Demonstration for Battery Operated Extraction Tools.**
- **Hurst, Homatro, T&T and Genesis to follow.**

The new version of the Jaws of Life tool is a battery operated tool, which allows the firefighters to be further away from the trucks than the current pneumatic tools. A number of vendors are currently demonstrating their new versions of these tools.

b. Signing Promotional List from August Tests:

- **Deputy Chief Test August 22nd.**
- **Inspectors Test August 23rd.**

Deputy Chief McCallum reviewed the recent status of the new hires and the conditional offer of employment. An error was noted on the certificates which will be corrected and reprinted.

c. New Hires

- **Three New Hires to Academy 08/27/2018**
- **Conditional Offer for Employment Was Refused by Ernest Leclercq**

Deputy Chief McCallum reviewed the details of these two items with the Commissioners.

LOCAL 830 REPORT.

There were no items to discuss at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Fire Station Project Updates

Chief Gatto reviewed the Fire Station Repair and Maintenance report dated October 15, 2018 with the Commissioners. (See attached)

NEW BUSINESS

There were no new items to discuss at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Rilling said that Deputy Chief Prescott had provided assistance during his vacation when he was in North Carolina during Hurricane Florence. Chief Gatto said that the Department Administration wants to give Deputy Chief Prescott his vacation time back.

Mayor Rilling said that he had sent a reply of the letter to Mr. Daniel Shell. Chief Gatto read the copy of the letter into the record. (See attached)

Chief Gatto said that there was an email from the Sheffield Island Lighthouse thanking the Fire Department for supporting them during their recent event on the island.

PERSONNEL

a. Update on Personnel Issues.

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Harry Rilling, Commissioner Destrugge, Commissioner Bentley, Fire Chief Gatto, Atty. Jeff Spahr, Mr. Burney, Assistant Chief Chris King, Deputy Chief Al Bassett, and Deputy Chief Mike McCallum entered into Executive Session at 3:34 p.m. They returned to Public Session at 4:22 p.m. No motions were made and no votes were taken.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services