

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE

FIRE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Oscar Destruge

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

• **August 15, 2023**

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 15, 2023 MEETING.**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 5, under item 12, there is an incomplete sentence. Please change the following from:
“Assistant Chief McCabe said that some staff had attended a”

To: “Assistant Chief McCabe said that some staff had attended a training class in New York City with ConEd and learned about the tools that ConEd uses. These tools are now being utilized by many Fire Departments.”

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 15, 2023 MEETING AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

There are no items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

Budget Report

Chief Gatto said that August has five weeks, so it appears to be over budget. The budget numbers are on target. Unfunded capital project funding has been reviewed and surplus funding has been returned to the City.

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. Buildings:**
 - a. Station 3: Apparatus Floor**
 - i. RFP for Engineer is currently open and will close on Oct. 13th.**
 - ii. The grant agreement with Third Taxing District is being executed.**
 - b. Station 5: Bathroom Renovation**
 - i. The contract with Maggiore Construction has been finalized.**
 - ii. Material submittal process has begun.**

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

Assistant Chief McCabe presented his report.

- a. Engine Company Ops**
 - 1. Researching a new type of large diameter hose with a stronger jacket, less prone to cracks and leaks.**

2. **Waiting on Pierce Manufacturing for the pre-build meeting for two new pumpers.**
- b. **Truck Company Ops**
 1. **The 2010 KME Tiller refurbishment is nearing completion**
 2. **Skills list particular to the operation and functions of the truck company are being standardized for future drivers.**
- c. **Rescue Company Ops**
 1. **The rescue committee is working with Pierce Manufacturing to develop a design for the new rescue truck**
- d. **Hazmat Ops**
 1. **NFD Hazmat technicians participate in a full team drill with the State Emergency Response Team in Fairfield.**
- e. **Water Supply Ops**
 1. **SNEW has replaced two hydrants at the request of the FD for standardization**
 2. **NFD will be attending a regional Tanker Task Force drill in Stamford, to assess the future benefits of utilizing those assets.**
- f. **General Ops**
 1. **Interviews of prospective fire candidates will be taking place in mid-October. The Department currently has 11 vacancies.**

Assistant Chief McCabe then presented the monthly statistics. There were 789 calls in August 2023, which averages out to 25.5 per day. There were 13 fires, 41 rescues of which 26 were motor vehicle accidents and 6 were pedestrians motor vehicle accidents. The Department responded to 474 EMS calls. 32 hazardous conditions, 35 service calls; 135 fire alarms and 59 good intents.

Assistant Chief McCabe reviewed the cumulative numbers for January through August.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

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

Fire Marshal Sawyer presented his report. There were 209 inspections and 20 notifications sent out. There were 3 Pub events along with 18 plan reviews that generated \$1,150. Liquor licenses brought in \$650 which comes to a total of \$1,800 for the month. There were four fires and two code hazard issues, which came to a total of 6 investigative events.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management Update

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Ms. DeLuca said that September was National Preparedness month. Preparedness information is being sent to Senior community leaders to distribute to their clients. The Library and the Senior Center will also be including it in their newsletter.

There will also be a Disaster Feeding Workshop with the Health Department's food providers on the 27th. These are groups, like the Salvation Army and the Red Cross, that focus on food insecurity.

The Open House is Saturday, October 21st at the Public Works Center from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Deputy Chief Coppola presented his report to the Commissioners.

Current Activities

- 1. Victim Search and Rescue in training mezzanine at Fire HQ**
- 2. Standpipe training at Tower.**
- 3. Basic vehicle extrication with Engine Companies facilitated by DCT Coppola & Rescue Captains**
- 4. Marine operations with recently transferred members of Marine Company (E3/MU238)**
- 5. Ongoing first-year training with probationary members**
- 6. Driver training for Engine and Ladder companies**
- 7. RIT training (downed Firefighter with air emergencies)**
- 8. Eversource Natural Gas Emergencies (on-going until all shifts and companies attend)**
- 9. Adashi Response Software training for company officers.**

Completed Activities

- 1. Personal Escape Bailout training for entire department**
- 2. Safe Driving for Emergency Responders (Craig Schmidt attended as well)**
- 3. Command Board Training for all Chiefs and Aides delivered by FDNY Field Comm members**
- 4. Vehicle Stabilizing drills for Engine Companies delivered by Rescue Captains at tower**
- 5. Cancer risk-reduction education with 1st Response Health and Wellness coordinator for all shifts**
- 6. S.E.R.C. Interagency Emergency Preparedness Exercise September 7, Fairfield County Hazmat**
- 7. DCT Coppola & Inspector Baez completed classroom portion of AHA CPR Instructor Course.**

Upcoming/Scheduled:

- 1. Connecticut Transit Electric Bus Training (Free)**
- 2. Working with COSTCO to utilize vacant Doubletree Hotel for training evolutions**
- 3. Respirator Fit Testing for all members with N-95 and SCBA respirators**
- 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. CFA Host Class: Engine Company Operations (10/23 & 10/24)**

The Mayor and Commissioner DeStruge thanked the staff for their dedication to training and excellence.

Commissioner DeStruge asked if it would be possible to have training available to the public on CPR and choking response. Deputy Chief Coppola agreed that this was an excellent suggestion.

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 only one company, Morrison McDaniel, bid on the RFP. The Council has approved this. They are looking at an written exam sometime early next year.

• Update on Part-Time Positions

Part time Fire Inspectors - Chief Gatto said that the Fire Marshal's Office had been understaffed for a long time. There were two part time positions in the budget. One part time inspector left following the birth of a child. There were four applicants and one later withdrew. Two inspectors are out on long term injury leave. There has been two potential candidates who are well qualified with over 30 years of experience in Fire Service. Chief Gatto said that they have one position budgeted, but was asking for approval for a second position. Fire Marshal Sawyer agreed and said that Mr. Kleppin projected that there would be 2,000 new residential units coming on line in the next few years.

Chief Gatto said that the Full Time Inspector was still in school. He updated the Commissioners on their status. One of the new FT Inspectors would finish up by the end of the year. Fire Marshal Sawyer said that the 24 hour schedules also presented a challenge.

Mayor Rilling said that he would like to have the two new Part Time inspectors, but added that he would like to know what the overall backlog status was. Fire Marshal Sawyer said that they were handling the previous residentials were moving smoothly, but there were many businesses that needed inspection along with Certificates of Occupancy inspections.

Chief Gatto said that they had a public viewing for the Marine Boat, which has been appraised. However, no one from the public came. There has not been any interest online either. He said that the boat is currently in service.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Change Medical Provider

Chief Gatto said that they had been using AFC for their yearly physicals. However, they have not been pleased with the service. They would like to change services, but are waiting for confirmation from Purchasing.

CORRESPONDENCE

There are no items to consider at this time.

PERSONNEL

• Firefighter Update

One of the female firefighters has provided a doctor's note confirming her pregnancy. She is now on administration work, Monday through Friday days. Currently, she is working on tagging the fire hydrants on the GIS system.

One Firefighter was scheduled to attend Army Officer School starting in September, but the Army has decided to delay his training until sometime next year.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

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