

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 20, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners: Irene Dixon, Mayor Harry Rilling.

STAFF: Denis McCarthy, Fire Chief; Assistant Chief Lawrence Reilly,
Captain Todd Smith, Training; Fire Marshall Chris Hansen.
Michelle Deluca, Emergency Operations.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections noted:

Page 1: Paragraph 2, delete 'is' in sentence one. Under Summer Interns, change Acquarius to Acquaria and add 'who' before have.

**** COMMISSIONER DIXON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE
JULY 15, 2014 MEETING AS AMENDED WITH CORRECTIONS NOTED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Budget

Chief McCarthy stated that the 2013-2014 numbers have come in close to budget, with overages in the overtime account offset by surplus amounts in other accounts. He noted that there is approximately \$9,500 available after encumbrances and possible accruals and this is significantly lower than prior years. He added that they are working with the Union on the return of those injured under the light duty program.

Employee Assistance Program

Chief McCarthy spoke on the benefits of identification of hidden health hazards has had an impact on health and wellness of the staff. He added that he is pleased when able to save a career or even a life through the occupational health program.

Summer Interns

Chief McCarthy stated that Mayor's Summer Youth program was very successful and the program provides positive mentorship and meaningful work experience that benefits both the department and the students.

Chief McCarthy noted that the approval for \$1 million for the new fire truck needs to back to the Council to add another account. Mayor Rilling asked to check with Finance Department to see if it is possible to proceed with a technical correction in the next meeting agenda.

ASSISTANT CHIEF REPORT

Chief McCarthy referred to the report as included in the agenda packet and reviewed the report of notable incidents for July as noted.

NOTABLE INCIDENTS

07/01, 07:12, 15 Merwin Street, construction accident. A section of concrete and steel wall collapsed, trapping an excavator operator. Firefighters removed the operator on a long board and assisted EMS with packaging him for transport to Norwalk Hospital. The Chief Building Official and was at scene and OSHA was notified.

07/03, 23:56, 109 Murray Street, fire in a wall. FD arrived to find a fire in the exterior wall of a house. Firefighter opened up the wall and extinguished the fire. The interior of the house was not damaged.

07/18, 00:13, 6 Walnut Avenue, smoke in the house. FD found that a fire that had started on an exterior wall had spread to the interior wall of a bedroom and also some contents of the room. Firefighters opened up the wall inside and out to expose the fire and extinguish it.

STATIONS AND EQUIPMENT

1. The bid for construction of two new pumpers was awarded to the KME Corporation of Nesquehoning PA for a price of \$963,664. KME was the low bidder on the project. \$ 1,000,000 was appropriated for the project over two fiscal years. A pre- build meeting will be scheduled shortly. Delivery should take place in approximately six months. Engine 4 (Westport Avenue) and Engine 5 (Meadow street) will be put in reserve when the new pumpers go in service. Engines 6 and 7 will be surplus.
2. Work is continuing on the renovation of the second floor of Station 3 (Van Zant Street).
3. Building Management assisted the Fire Department with conducting a building survey of Station 1 (Broad River) to prioritize needed repairs and developing a budget for those items.
4. The Department has started soliciting bids to have four underground storage tanks at the maintenance building, 100 Fairfield Avenue, removed. \$ 35,000 was appropriated in the current year capital budget for this.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Fire Marshal Hansen presented the report and noted that total units were 277 for over 161 hours representing routine inspections.

TRAINING REPORT

Captain Smith referred to the report as follows:

- Annual Physicals still in progress – delays are due to vacation schedule mode.
- Fire Service Instructor I Program starting on September and Grant funding is covering the costs
- Dispatcher is now completing ride along on shift
- Mobile Command Board has been delivered. We hope to utilize for Oyster festival
- We have 3-4 Firefighters enrolling in Westport EMS EMR / EMT Training Class beginning September

Emergency Management

Chief McCarthy highlighted the event action plans such as the Oyster Festival, the Boat Show that represented consolidated plans coordinated with all Departments and EMS teams.

OLD BUSINESS/ NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Rilling asked that it be duly noted that Michele Deluca, Director of Emergency Management, was named 2014 Emergency Manager of the Year. The award was presented prior to the meeting with ceremony in the main apparatus bay of the Norwalk Fire Department. The recognition was awarded by the Northeast States Emergency Consortium, an agency of emergency managers from each of the seven New England states. Ms. Deluca was selected by a committee that featured William Shea, Connecticut's Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Emergency Coordinator for Congressman Himes' office, Amy Lappos. Those in attendance included Senator Bob Duff, the Norwalk Police Department, Deputy Chief Prescott, Town Clerk, Richard McQuaid, Christine Bradley, Director of the Norwalk Public Library.

PERSONNEL - No items

CORRESPONDENCE - None

Adjournment

**** COMMISSIONER DIXON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Knox,
Telesco Secretarial Services