CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE

FIRE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2023

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Oscar Destruge

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

- **July 18, 2023**

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 20, 2023 MEETING**.

The following corrections were noted:

Page 2, under Fire Chief's Report, paragraph 2, please change the following from:

> Chief Gatto reviewed the number of incidents and noted that there were more incidents, but the cost was less.

Chief Gatto reviewed the number of worker's compensations incidents and noted that there were more incidents, but the cost was less.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 20, 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 the full year report for 2022-2023 was included the report and reviewed the details with the Commissioners. The Department came in at 95%. There was a surplus in the salary account. He noted that in the Overtime Expenses account for this year had been reduced so he would be requesting a roll-over of surplus funding into the Overtime account.

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
- **a. Apparatus MDTs are in operation.**
- **b. C&C Command software build is in process.**
- **c. Live training to be scheduled for the command software.**

b. Station Alerting System Upgrade
- **a. System testing and monitor installation in process.**

c. Buildings:
- **a. Station 3: Apparatus Floor**
  - **i. RFP for Engineer submitted.**
  - **ii. Awaiting finalized grant agreement with Third Taxing District.**
- **b. Station 5: Bathroom Renovation**
  - **i. Common Council approval was gained at the 08/07/2023 meeting.**
  - **ii. Awaiting contract finalization from the Corporation Council**.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

Assistant Chief McCabe presented his report.

a. Two specialty fire blankets have been placed in service to aid in the extinguishment of lithium-ion car battery fires. These blankets are designed to

be deployed over a burning car, containing the fire and aiding in extinguishment. This will be particularly practical in confined areas such as parking garages and in areas where water supply is limited. The Department is applying for a grant to purchase a blanket for every engine company.

b. On Thursday, July 27th, hazmat technicians from the NFD responded to Fairfield to assist our regional partners with a large propane leak caused by localized storm damage. Engine 4 also responded during that incident to Westport for Station coverage, and DC Coppola responded as a Safety Officer and to assist with the hazmat effort.

c. A meeting was held on August 2nd regarding the replacement of the I-95 bridge over Saugatuck Ave. at Exit 17. The project will include two phases and will allow the highway to stay open by crossing one lane of traffic over to the opposite side. The first phase will take place in October. All local stakeholders will be notified so that appropriate public messaging can be posted and preparation for added volume on local roads can be made.

d. As discussed last month, we are preparing to interview additional candidates from our 2021 recruit test with the goal of hiring personnel to fill four of our current vacancies. We will simultaneously be preparing for our next recruit test, tentatively scheduled to be administered in late 2023 or early 2024.

Assistant Chief McCabe stated that there were 775 incidents, which is an average of 25 incidents per day. There were 14 fire, 51 rescues, 448 EMS calls, 34 Hazardous Conditions calls; 28 service calls, 135 fire alarms and 65 smoke or good intent calls. This is an increase of 359 incidents over the number of 2022 incidents and an increase of 469 responses over the 2022 responses.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

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

Fire Marshal Sawyer presented his report. There were 152 inspections. Six notifications were sent out. This number is lower because the response to these notifications has increased. There were 19 Plan Reviews, 13 liquor license inspections, one fire investigation and six code issues or hazards.

The Office collected $700 in Plan Review fees and $845 in liquor license fees; totaling $1,545.00.

Fire Marshal Sawyer said that he and the Chief would be conducting interviews for additional part time Fire Inspector in the coming weeks.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management Update

Ms. Deluca said that they had worked with Public Works, Health Department and the Food Rescue to handle an unexpected donation of 40,000 pounds of cucumbers. Now they have a process organization developed to work with other agencies. It will be written plan for the future. There were also some conversations with food providers (Red Cross and food pantries) and with the City. She said that she would be working to finalize the protocol by the fall.

The hurricane season spotlight will be highlighted on the City website.

The Open House is scheduled for Saturday, October 21st from 9 to 12 at Public Works.

The Fire Department will be attending the Police Department's Night Out later in the evening.

Mayor Rilling announced that the Norwalk Salvation Army Corps had two new officers: Major Leo Sanclemente and Major Persi Sanclemente.

TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Assistant Chief McCabe presented the report because Deputy Chief Coppola was not available.

Current Activities

1. **Bailout Refresher Training at our training facility, our instructors**
2. **Adashi MDT and Command & Control Software Orientation for Company Officers**
3. **Probationary firefighters task book work with company officers**
4. **Tiller Operator/Tractor Operator training for all shifts ongoing**
5. **Vehicle Extrication/Stabilization with junked cars, tower and CT. Ave facilities**
6. **New AC Current Detector familiarization training for all members**
7. **UL Fire Dynamics train the trainer @ CFA on 8/11/23 for DCT Coppola**

Completed Activities

1. **OSHA Haz COMM Training completed and documented**
2. **Rural Gas Propane Emergencies Training completed and documented**
3. **Joint NFD/Norwalk Police Department Forcible Entry Training**
4. **Heavy Vehicle Lifting and Stabilizing Class (CFA)**

5. New Facility Orientation and Pre-Incident Planning at new Cranbury School
6. Green's Ledge Lighthouse Pre-Incident Planning trips for MU-238 crews

Upcoming/Scheduled:

1. Eversource Natural Gas training with representatives from Eversource - FREE
2. Joint Engine Company and Rescue Company stabilization training on site delivered by Rescue Captains who took the specialized class delivered by the CFA.
3. Electric Bus training delivered by Connecticut Transit - FREE
4. Safe Driving Practices for First Responders (FRFS)
5. Command Board Training (FDNY Field Comm)
6. Cancer Prevention/Wellness with Wellness Coordinator Sara Beckert
7. Building Construction for First Responders (2-day CFA Host Class)
8. Engine Company Operations (CFA 2-day Host Class)
9. Fire Instructor 1 (CFA Multiple Day Host Class)
10. Full Team deployment training exercise for Fairfield County Hazmat September 7, 2023
11. Relay Pumping Drills with multiple engine companies utilizing our instructors
12. Confined Space training with new Paratech Monopod/Bipod/Tripod

Mayor Rilling noted that he had recently read a report about someone who had been accidently been electrocuted while in a lake. Assistant Chief McCabe said that some staff had attended a

LOCAL 830 REPORT

There are no items to consider at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

• **Update on a new entry level exam**

Morris McDaniel was the only vendor to reply to the RFP. The Department had has good results with them previously. He noted that there had been a substantial increase in the fees. A brief discussion followed about a meeting scheduled with the company on August 17th.

NEW BUSINESS

There are no items to consider at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

There are no items to consider at this time.

PERSONNEL

There are no items to consider at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services