

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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

REGULAR MEETING
July 20, 2021

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Larry Bentley,
Commissioner Oscar Destruge

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Assistant Chief Al Bassett; Assistant Chief
Edward McCabe; Deputy Chief of Training Adam Markowitz;
Fire Marshal Broderick Sawyer; Bill Ireland, Local 830; Michele
DeLuca, Emergency Management.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting – June 15 , 2021

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED THE MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2021**

The following correction was noted:

Page 4, under Correspondence, Firefighter Jason McNeil should be Firefighter James McNeil.

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE
AS CORRECTED PASSED WITH TWO (2) IN FAVOR (RILLING AND
DESTRUGE) AND ONE (1) ABSTENSION (BENTLEY).**

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT.

a. Budget Report.

Chief Gatto said that the overtime budget had a shortage and some funds were transferred. However the overtime account is still short by \$32,000. He said that with the new firefighters joining the department, the overtime amount will decrease.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION

• Promotional Ceremony July 28, 2021

• Respiratory Protective Program

Assistant Chief Bassett said that the Promotional Ceremony will be held at Fire Headquarters at 2 o'clock on Wednesday, July 28.

Assistant Chief Bassett said that the department has been approve on the Respiratory Protective Program. He added that they had also had attained the first standard regarding records management. OSHA should be back in the fall for the next inspection standards series.

A brief discussion followed about the document that was attached to the email. Assistant Chief Bassett explained that it was over 100 pages long.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

- a. Conferencing with Morris & McDaniel on Test Results**
- b. Coordinating interviews with Certified Firefighter Candidates**
- c. Working with NPD to Improve and Expedite Background Check Procedures for new FD recruits**
- d. Working with Station 3 Officers on Boat Equipment and Modified Marine Responses**

Asst. Chief McCabe gave an overview of his report. He also reviewed the various calls, including 15 fires, and 372 medical responses. Notable incidents included a call at

Norwalk Hospital regarding a piece of medical equipment that began smoking and a near drowning at Calf Pasture Beach.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

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

Fire Marshal Sawyer reported that in June, there were 163 inspections, 21 notifications, 46 plan reviews, 9 fire investigation along with other duties. The Department collected \$2,050 in fees.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

a. Emergency Management Update.

Ms. DeLuca said that there had been a number of severe thunder storms. There was six inches of rain from one of the storms.

She then spoke about the national Turn Around, Don't Drown campaign to encourage people not to drive through flood waters.

There is an item on the upcoming Council agenda regarding replacing the two message boards that have died. She also spoke about the FEMA COVID response.

TRAINING'S DIVISION REPORT.

- a. Car vs. Bicycle Training with the Trucks 1, 2, and Rescue 2**
- b. SCBA Fit Testing**
- c. Truck 2 Ladder Pipe Operations**
- d. Vehicle Stabilization Training with Trucks 1, 2, and Rescue 2**
- e. Continuation of Department Physicals**
- f. Continuation of Ground Ladder Training with Truck 1**
- g. Tree vs. Car Refresher Training Rescue 2 and Truck 2.**
- h. Emergency Response Guidebook Refresher Training.**

Deputy Chief Markowitz presented his report. He described the car vs. bike training scenario involving mannequins.

LOCAL 830 REPORT

There was no report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Building Repairs.

• **Broad River –Station One** – Assistant Chief Bassett updated the Commissioners on status of the project, and said that they were waiting on the bonding companies to determine what they would cover. Negotiations continue between Corporation Counsel and the bonding company.

NEW BUSINESS.

There was no new business to consider at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review at this time.

PERSONNEL

a. Executive Session Update on Personnel.

b. Entry Level Candidates

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES AND THE ENTRY LEVEL CANDIDATES.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners and Chief Gatto entered into Executive Session at 3:25 p.m. The Commissioners returned to public session at 4:11 p.m. No actions or motions were made during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services