

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE

REGULAR MEETING
JULY 19, 2022

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Oscar Destruge

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Assistant Chief Edward McCabe; Deputy Chief of Training Adam Markowitz; Assistant Chief Mark Conte; Michele DeLuca, Emergency Management; Linda Shields; Fire Marshal Broderick Sawyer; William Ireland, Local 830

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 – June 21, 2022

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED THE MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2022.**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 4, Training Report, paragraph 1, line 1: please change the following from:

Deputy Chief of Training Markowitz presented his to the Commission.

To: Deputy Chief of Training Markowitz presented his report to the Commission.

Page 4, under Update on Part-time Fire Inspector, paragraph 1, line 1: please change the following from :

“hired a new part-time inspection”
To: “hired a new part-time inspector”

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 21, 2022
MEETING AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT.

a. Budget Report.

Chief Gatto presented his report. He noted that June has five weeks which means an extra week of overtime. He said that they were \$79,000 over budget for OT, but that will be offset by the vacant salary positions. He said that next month they would have a more accurate report on the expenses.

Chief Gatto said that the June figures also included 3 members who were out on long term disability due to surgeries. One will be returning to duty soon.

b. Workers Compensation Comparison

Last year, there were 460 shifts out last year due to injury and this year there were fewer.

Chief Gatto said that during the 2020-2021 there were more claims and this most recent budget year, 2021-2022, there were fewer. He said that risk management was helping.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF'S OF ADMINISTRATION REPORT

a. ESO RMS Upgrade

- o Data Migration nearing completion.**
- o Initial Department Training complete. Scheduling Dispatch training with Lt. Blake.**
- o ESO tentative go-live date set for August, 1st .**

b. Citywide Communications Upgrade

- o New Radio Template Build/Reprogramming in Progress**
- o PURVIS Fire Station Alerting System contract submitted to Corporation Counsel for review.**

c. Buildings

- o Station 1 Renovation Status Update**
- o Work nearing completion.**

- o **Station 3 Apparatus Floor**
- o **Awaiting Engineer's drawings.**
- o **Station 5 New Roof Installation**
- o **Bid Solicitation Opening- 07/22/2022**
- o **Station 5 Bathroom Renovation**
- o **Planning phase to upgrade the firefighters' bathroom.**

Assistant Chief Conte presented his report. Station 1 is almost complete. They are waiting on some material that was back ordered. The plumbing and electrical are completed.

Still waiting on engineer's drawings for Station 3 and other plans are moving forward.

Mayor Rilling suggested that they might consider having the Commission meet in the various stations to see the upgrades. Once the bathroom stalls arrived, and are installed, Station 1 will be completed. Commissioner Destruge said that he is looking forward to that tour.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

- a. **Revised the SOP for response to non-hydrant areas of town. Added streets and updated mutual aid tanker response on 1st alarm assignment.**
- b. **Created an SOP for fighting fires in hybrid and electric vehicles, sighting the difficulties and dangers involved with high voltage batteries.**
- c. **Worked with Apparatus Maintenance and vendors to design specifications for two new fire engines in preparation for going out to bid.**

Assistant Chief McCabe presented his report and reviewed the details with the Commissioners.

Assistant Chief McCabe then gave a brief overview of the major incidents that happened in June.

Mayor Rilling asked why there have been so many vehicle fires. Fire Marshal Sawyer said that usually it is an electrical fire. Sometimes people install their own parts, like large speakers that overload the system. He noted that heated seats can often short out and start a fire underneath the seat when they become overheated. Discussion followed.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

- a. **Summary of Activities.**
- b. **Fire Reports.**

c. Fire Marshal Fees.

Fire Marshal Sawyer presented his report as detailed in the Commissioners' packets.

Mayor Rilling asked for an update on the Part time Fire Inspectors. Chief Gatto said that they had just finished 2 interviews and would most likely be making an offer to one candidate that had some experience in the Fire Marshal's Office. This will bring him up to two part time inspectors. Discussion followed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

a. Emergency Management Update.

Ms. DeLuca said that the 4th of July fireworks display was good and an excellent action plan was created which worked well. She expects the heat wave to end by Friday. There are no hurricanes on the horizon.

There will be an open house on October 1st that will include Fire, Police, DPW and EMS.

TRAINING'S DIVISION REPORT.

- a. Completed Man Overboard Training**
- b. Electric Vehicle Car Fire Overview**
- c. Sprinkler System Training**
- d. Marine 238 Zodiac Training**
- e. Various Company Level Drills**

Deputy Chief Markowitz presented his report to the Commission. He said that they have an instructor reviewing autism awareness.

Commissioner Destruge asked about the Zodiac Training. Deputy Chief Markowitz explained that the Zodiac allows the firefighters to get into places the boat can't because of depth or width. It would also allow the crew to evacuate the main fire boat if necessary.

The discussion moved to staffing and those who were out on long term disability. Chief Gatto said that they have started discussion about potential retirements, but cautioned that they did not want to overload the experienced firefighters with too many new recruits. He said that they will keep the Commission updated on the number of vacancies.

Commissioner Destruge asked for a report on the comparison of the vacancies between this year and last year.

Commissioner Destruge asked how the new hires were doing. Deputy Chief Markowitz said that the new hires were doing well. There is one group that is approaching their eighth month review and the second group is approaching their four month review.

LOCAL 830 REPORT

There was no items to discuss at this time. Mr. Ireland said that they were preparing to leave for the National convention in Ottawa. During the summer, the union does not meet due to people being on vacation.

Mr. Ireland said that there would be a raffle for a car on October 16th. Discussion followed about the raffle details. More details will be forthcoming about the Fireman's Ball and will be posted on the website.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on Part-Time Fire Inspectors

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS.

There was no new business to consider at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review at this time.

PERSONNEL

There were no personnel matters to discuss at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Fire Commission
Regular Meeting
July 19, 2022