

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE

FIRE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 18, 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

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 on Tuesday, June 20, 2023

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

The following corrections were noted:

Page 1, under **STAFF**: please change “Joseph Coppollo” to “Deputy Chief Joseph Coppola” and all additional references to “Mr. Coppolla” to “Deputy Chief Coppola”.

Page 3, under training Division Report, 1st paragraph, line 5: please change the following
From: “Eight new firefighters have graduated” to “Six new firefighters have graduated”

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE 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 budget year had ended, but the final yearly report would be available next month. The 2022-2023 budget also includes the first two weeks of July because of the payroll. He said that they were currently at 96%, and felt that they would be about 99% when the figures were finalized.

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

Chief Gatto said that he had just received the memo that there was an increase in the yearly rent for one of the stations.

Chief Gatto noted that there had been a decrease in sick time from last year.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

Assistant Chief McCabe said that he was standing in for Assistant Chief Conte. He then presented the report.

- Adashi Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) and Command Software Upgrade
 - Software is live.
 - Apparatus computer installation in process.
 - Officer training to begin.
- Station Alerting System Upgrade
 - System testing and monitor installation in process.
- Buildings:
 - Station 3: Apparatus Floor
 - RFP for Engineer submitted.
 - Awaiting finalized grant agreement with Third Taxing District.
 - Station 5: Bathroom Renovation
 - The bid has been awarded to Maggiore Construction, Inc.
 - The action item has been placed on the Public Safety & General Government Subcommittee's July 27th meeting.
- OSHA Compliance
 - 100% compliance- Haz Com Training has been completed.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

Assistant Chief McCabe presented the following report.

Deputy Chief Reardon and I are working with First and Second District Water Departments to standardize the hose thread on remaining older hydrants in town that still require our crews to use hose adaptors.

The design of the new Rescue truck is being finalized and we will soon be meeting with the vendor. This apparatus will be replacing our 1993 Rescue and will allow the current 2009 truck to be placed in reserve status.

NFD Admin and training chiefs met with the safety coordinator at the WALK Bridge project and discussed future training and possible response scenarios. Due to the size and scope of the project, Stamford Fire Rescue personnel will also be invited to train with NFD crews on the site in the near future.

Preparations are being made to administer our next Firefighter Recruit Test in the early fall, with a target date in mid-September. The Department is currently at 10 vacancies.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Summary of Activities

Fire Reports

Fire Marshal Fees

Chief Gatto stated that both Fire Marshal Sawyer and Deputy Fire Marshal McDonald were in class, so Chief Gatto presented the report. There were 714 incidents, which averages to 24 calls per day. There were 15 fires, 44 rescues, 433 EMS calls, 19 Hazardous conditions calls, and 21 service calls. Additional details were included in the information packet.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management Update

Ms. DeLuca said that they will continue the Summer Safety spotlight on the City website and will transition it to the Storm Safety spotlight.

TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Deputy Chief Coppola presented his report and reviewed the details with the Commissioners.

Current Activities

- Wellness Coordinator - Injury Prevention / Fitness Training
- New firefighter orientation continuing (in-stations with company officers)
- OSHA HazCom Training for all members
- Tiller Operator/Tractor Operator training for all shifts ongoing

Completed Activities

- Cranbury School Ventilation Practical Evolutions (See Photos 1 & 2)
- Aerial Placement evolutions with ladder truck companies (See Photos 3 & 4)

Marine 238 Man Overboard Training
Aerial Master Stream drills with engine companies (feeding the aerial device)
CPR Refreshers for members who expire within the year 2023

Upcoming/Scheduled:

Rural Gas Propane Truck Demonstration with Rural Fuels
Eversource Natural Gas training with representatives from Eversource
Heavy vehicle stabilizing and lifting class – CFA
Electric Bus training delivered by Connecticut Transit
Safe Driving Practices for First Responders (FRFS)
Command Board Training (FDNY Field Comm)
Cancer Prevention/Wellness with Wellness Coordinator Sara Beckert
Building Construction for First Responders (2-day CFA Host Class)
Engine Company Operations (CFA 2-day Host Class)
Fire Instructor 1 (CFA Multiple Day Host Class)

Mayor Rilling said that he was always impressed with the amount of training that the first responders undertake. Deputy Chief Coppola said that the firefighters appreciate the training.

LOCAL 830 REPORT

There are no items to consider at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Chief Gatto said that they had been authorized to create a new entry level exam and an RFP will be posted soon. He said that they had thought they could get an exam together for September but they have to go through the bidding process. This means they will most likely have the exam in the late fall or early winter. However, they will work on recruitment while they are waiting for the bids to come in.

Discussion followed about going back to the current list to fill the 10 vacancies.

NEW BUSINESS

There are no items to consider at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

• **Thank you letter**

Chief Gatto said that they had received an email from Susie Christoff thanking them for the recent tour that she and her grandson had at one of the stations. Her grandson smiled all day after the tour.

Mayor Rilling said that this was the type of community interaction that the Department should have.

PERSONNEL

City of Norwalk
Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Meeting
July 18, 2023

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session needed at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUCE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services