

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 24, 2014**

ATTENDANCE*: Commissioners: Irene Dixon, Oscar Destruge,

STAFF: Denis McCarthy, Fire Chief; Assistant Chief Lawrence Riley;
Deputy Chief Todd Smith, Training;
Michelle Deluca, Emergency Operations.

*Note: Mayor Rilling was unable to attend the Board of Fire Commission Meeting because he had to attend the US Conference of Mayors conference in Dallas TX

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Destruge called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Destruge noted the spelling of defibulator should be defibrillator.

**** COMMISSIONER DIXON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE
MAY 27, 2014 MEETING AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Action Items:

Recognitions:

Captain Adam Markowitz for successful AFG Grant Award

Lieutenant Timothy Reardon for development Firefighter Self Rescue System Project.

Chief McCarthy explained that while there is no formal ceremony this is to acknowledge the above accomplishments by those noted for the programs. He added that a demonstration of the equipment will be done at a future meeting when all the commissioners were in attendance.

Commissioner Destruge asked about the tour of the Fire Stations, and Chief McCarthy noted that he will notify the Commissioners of potential dates and times to schedule this.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Budget

Chief McCarthy stated that the 2013-2014 overtime is tracking very close to the budget and they have worked with the BET on transfers shortages due to disabilities, injury related long term absences and retirements. He noted that the shortage of a mechanic has resulted in more equipment sent out to a third party versus in house repair. He added that the overtime account is expected to be slightly over budget with a few weeks to go.

Employee Assistance Program

Chief McCarthy stated that this is a valuable service in terms of recognizing problems with drug or substance abuse or financial struggles and help identify assistance and expanding this to provide counseling services. He explained that the City is transitioning from Public Safety Assistance with Behavioral Health effective July 1 and upcoming programs include an overview of the retirement and pension plans. .

Summer Interns

Chief McCarthy stated that they are again participating in the Mayor's Summer Youth program with two students scheduled to work on document conversion from paper to electronic files. He added that the program has been also providing positive mentorship and meaningful work experience.

ASSISTANT CHIEF REPORT

Assistant Chief Reilly stated that two retired fire fighters had recently passed away and wanted to acknowledge them: Julius Orvis and Bob Silva.

Assistant Chief Reilly then reviewed the report of notable incidents for April and highlighted the major house fires as noted:

05/05, 00:47, 18 Reservoir Avenue, house fire: FD arrived to find a fire in the kitchen of a walkout basement apartment. All three occupants of the house were outside on arrival. Fire extended to a 1st floor closet via a pipe chase. FD used two hose lines to extinguish the fire.

05/08, 11:25, 1-95, southbound tractor trailer fire: FD arrived to find the cab of a tractor trailer fully involved. Three Engine Companies were used to extinguish the fire. 1-95 had to be shut down completely during the operation.

05/10, 2 1:33, Fallow Street at Kendall Court, MV: Two cars involved, one car had rolled over on its roof and caught fire. FD extinguished fire and assessed and treated five occupants of the vehicle. The occupants were transported to Norwalk Hospital. Several other occupants went to the hospital by private car. (Noted that students were from Brien McMahon)

05/25, 13:18, 21 Ward Street, structure fire. FD used one hose line to extinguish a fire in a garage apartment.

05/26, 12:20, Norwalk harbor, overturned canoe with one person missing: FD Marine unit assisted PD Marine units in searching for adult male who had fallen out on an overturned canoe and was reported missing. The victim's body was recovered later that evening by State Police divers.

Assistant Fire Chief's Report – continued

STATIONS AND EQUIPMENT

- The Fire Department has been awarded a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$ 176,000. This will be used to purchase 132 personal escape systems (\$ 99,000); the harnesses, carabineers, and hooks used with the system (\$ 50,000), and training on using the system, (\$ 26,000). The Department has a match of 10% for the grant, which will come out the Turnout Clothing account in FY 14-15.
- A new central HVAC system has been installed at the Van Zant Street Fire Station (Station #3). Personnel assigned to the station have also begun a renovation of the second floor. This will include relocating the kitchen and uncovering and restoring the original ceiling.
- The Rescue Company and the twelve personnel assigned to it have been moved from Station 1 back to Headquarters. The spare office on the second floor has been assigned to the Rescue Lieutenants.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Chief noted that Fire Marshall Hansen was on vacation and his report is deferred to next month.

TRAINING REPORT

Deputy Captain Smith referred to the report as follows:

- Annual Physicals still in progress – delays are due to shortage of clinicians as a result of hospital mergers.
- King Industries tours have been completed as June 16, 2014
- Regional Resource Symposium at Dolce scheduled for September 24, 2014. Flier distributed. This is being sponsored by King Industries and there was discussion on how proactive they are and they work well with coordinated efforts and the collaboration with their Fire Chief, Bill Stenger, a retired Norwalk FD Captain.
- EAP in-service training will be completed by the end of this month with a new company. Schedule this week to orient firefighters on services including family benefits, counseling, substance abuse, special needs and 24/7 confidential services. It was noted that data is provided on the usage of the plan on a confidential basis with numbers only and no names.

Deputy Captain Smith noted that an incident at an assisted living senior residence resulted in quick response that saved the life of an individual that showed no cardiac activity and was brought back with the defibrillator. He showed the printout of cardiac activity after one shock and noted that the individual is now recovering at the ICU. There was a review of the number of times the units are used, and Deputy Captain Smith noted that an approximate average is six times per month and an estimated number of saves is 8-10 this year.

Emergency Management

Ms. Deluca reported the following:

- Hurricane Season training session was held on June 11 at 2:30 at the EOC to review emergency preparedness procedures and was a show and tell of regional assets.
- On June 23 a state drill was held at the Fire Station and was well attended by local and regional representatives. She noted that after action items they are working on FEMA guidelines to simplify procedures. She spoke of the challenges experienced at the Shelter during Super Storm Sandy and highlighted the following areas:
 - Continued need to address information for preparation of those with medical needs.
 - Working with the Health Department and Social Service providers on issues with medication, equipment and transportation.
 - Additional large-capacity cots are needed to accommodate those over 350 lbs.
 - Education piece continues to be a priority to address alternatives to minimize risk to first responders.
 - Emergency preparedness pamphlets are distributed and efforts to schedule public service announcements to publicize information in local media,

UNION PRESIDENT REPORT – None (noted that position is stationed at Van Zant Station)

OLD BUSINESS/ NEW BUSINESS - None

PERSONNEL - No items

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox,
Telesco Secretarial Services