CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE

REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 21, 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; Michele DeLuca, Emergency Management, Assistant Chief Mark Conte; Fire Marshal Broderick Sawyer; Linda Shields; Deputy Chief of Training Adam Markowitz, Tina Fogell, Chief Human Resources Officer

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting – May 17, 2022

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED THE MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2022.**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 4, paragraph 2, please change the following from:

"display is schedule for the"

To: "display is scheduled for the"

Page 4, under **Training's Division Report**, line 1, please change the following from:

"presented his to the Commission."

To: "presented his report to the Commission."

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 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. The salary account is at 83% and the overtime is at 93%. He reviewed the remaining details and noted that June has five weeks in it, so there will appear to be an increase in expenses. They were 177 fewer sick days taken than last year.

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 Fire Marshal Division now performing inspections with ESO.
- o ESO tentative go-live date set for July, 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** Update
  - o Work nearing completion.
- o **Station 3** Apparatus Floor
  - o Awaiting Engineer's drawings.
- o **Station 5** New Roof Installation
  - o Drawings received.
  - o RFP application in process.
- o **Station 5** Bathroom Renovation

- Planning phase to upgrade the firefighters' bathroom.

Assistant Chief Conte presented his report and answered the Commissioners' questions. Mayor Rilling suggested that the Commission should visit the various sites to see the improvements. Chief Gatto suggested that the July meeting could be at Broad River if the building is completed.

Assistant Chief Conte said that the GIS mapping was going well and commended the staff who was working on the project for their excellent skills.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

a. FD participated in the procession from Sherwood Island to Vets Park for the Wall That Heals Vietnam Memorial.
b. Eight new probationary firefighters were assigned to their platoons after completing training and familiarization.
c. Traveled to the Seagrave vendor in Brewster, NY for the fitting-out and placement of equipment on the new ladder truck.
d. Met with King Industry's personnel and OEM to participate in a severe weather tabletop exercise.
e. Instructed Lieutenants and Captains on procedures for calling for multiple alarms and mutual aid.

Assistant Chief Edward McCabe presented his report.

Assistant Chief Edward McCabe then gave a brief overview of the major incidents that happened in May. He said that the Peer Support Committee had reached out to the Department and were available.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

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

Fire Marshal Sawyer presented his report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

a. Emergency Management Update.

Ms. DeLuca said that the Severe Weather Table Top exercise was done at King Industries. There are also five sites that were being considered for weather stations. She

said that there will be one located at the fire department and the data will be posted online for residents.

Ms. DeLuca said that they had met with Altice and would be meeting with Frontier about storm precautions and responses, along with Eversource. She added that she hoped to do this on a regular basis.

They held the Open House on October 1st and will be scheduling it again. She encouraged people to look at the website for heat preparedness. They expect a busier than normal hurricane season this year.

TRAINING'S DIVISION REPORT.

a. Pump Operator Refresher Training
b. ESO Company Officer Training
c. Air-Strut Stabilization Training
d. Peer Support/Debriefing (Nelson Ave Fire)
e. In-House New Recruit Academy
f. Tree on a Car Training
g. Hi-Rise Packs/Fire Department Connection Training
h. Man Overboard Training
i. FDNY Electrical Emergency Seminar

Deputy Chief of Training Markowitz presented his to the Commission.

Mayor Rilling asked for an update on staffing. Chief Gatto said that there were currently 2 vacancies and by the end of the year, they are looking at 8 potential vacancies. A discussion followed about lateral hires.

Commissioner Destruge asked if they had considered rescues when a vehicle becomes air borne and hit a train. Deputy Chief of Training Markowitz said that there had been a rescue in the previous month where the vehicle was positioned upside down on a Jersey Barrier.

LOCAL 830 REPORT

There was no items to discuss at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

a. **Update on Part-Time Fire Inspectors**

Chief Gatto said that they had hired a new part-time inspection on May 23rd and that individual has started doing inspections. They reposted the position because one position is still vacant but are in the process

NEW BUSINESS.

There was no new business to consider at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Gatto said that there was a letter from a resident who feel down some steps and broke her foot. She thanked the first responders for their caring and compassion.

PERSONNEL

a. DROP Pension

Chief Gatto said that there was one individual who was applying for the DROP Plan. Mayor Rilling asked Chief Gatto to forward the paperwork to Ms. Fogell as well.

Mayor Rilling said that he had contacted a possible candidate for the vacant Fire Commissioner position.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services