

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE

REGULAR MEETING
June 20th, 2023

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Oscar Destruge

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto, Assistant Fire Chief Mark Conte, Assistant Chief Edward McCabe, Joseph Coppollo, Michele DeLuca, Tina Fogell, Personnel Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3.01 p.m. There was a quorum present.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- Special Meeting on Monday, May 22, 2023

****COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 202
* Please make the following corrections on page 4, replace “drug” plan to “drop” plan.

****COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS AMENDED**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. ACTION ITEMS

There were no items

4. FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

Chief Gatto discussed the budget. At this time, they are at 83.4% of the budget out of 91%; indicating the department is under-budget.

5. ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

▪ **Adashi Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) and Command Software Upgrade**

Chief Conte noted the Adashi Mobile Data Terminal and Command Software Upgrade build is in process, installation is almost complete. Test site is live.

▪ **Station Alerting System Upgrade**

Chief Conte noted the testing is moving along quickly, and we are live at every station as of today including the police department.

Buildings:

- **Station 3 Apparatus Floor**

Chief Conte filed the RFP to the Engineer. We are waiting to receive the grant agreement from the Third Taxing District.

- **Station 5 Roof Replacement**

The project is completed. Final inspection with the Architect was done today. Photos were provided.

- **Station 5 Bathroom Renovation**

Funding will be received July 1st. The bids went out. Three contractors attended the meeting.

- **OSHA Compliance**

We are 100% compliant. We scheduled our HAZ-COM training with a completion date in July.

6. ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

- Chief McCabe noted the last two months have been especially busy, as the department responded to 10 working structure fires in that time period. One of the fires involved the removal of dozens of occupants from their apartments due to heavy smoke obstructing their means of egress. All fire personnel performed exceptionally. There were no injuries reported from these incidents.
- Chief McCabe noted the demolition of the old Cranbury School will provide an opportunity for firefighters to train on the building next week. School administrators and the demolition company met with us; and will allow our truck companies to cut the school's flat commercial roof, which is a rare and valuable training opportunity.
- Chief McCabe noted a meeting with the Walk Bridge Construction Company is scheduled for this Thursday. The department will address if there are any hazards and/or confined spaces that may need a response during the first phase of the project. In addition to, if there are any training and equipment needs.

- Chief McCabe discussed calls for the month of May. There were 764 incidents, averaging 25 per day. Cumulatively from January 1st to May 31st there were 3,531 total incidents and 5,601 total responses. Commissioner Destruge noted it is a 9% increase over the prior year, and the staff is working harder with the same number of individuals.

7. FIRE MARSHALL'S REPORT

Fire Marshall Sawyer noted there were 131 inspections, 13 notifications, 2 public events, 14 plan reviews, 12 liquor license inspection, and investigated 13 investigations, along with 3 code issues. We collected \$650 in plan review fees and \$780 in liquor license fees. He summarized the type of incidents.

8. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Ms. DeLuca discussed 92 Cedar Street and noted there were 45 residents that were displaced for almost a week. The department worked with community services, health department, senior services, VESTA, salvation army, meals on wheels, and the Red Cross to ensure the needs of the residents were met. The department participated in a hurricane briefing. The work at Fairfield Avenue has been completed and is ready for training space or meeting space. The Police, Fire, EMS, Parks & Rec, Public Works, and Emergency Management met this morning to discuss Fireworks.

9. TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

- **Current Activities**

Mr. Coppolla noted that he acquired this position as of June 1st replacing Chief Maggio. He provided a report to the commission. The in-process activities included the Wellness Coordinator – injury Prevention/Fitness Training. The department completed the man-in-machine extrication training and photos were provided. The 8-hour day training was intense. The feedback from the department was positive. Eight new firefighters have graduated from the Academy and have been training with their Company Officers. Lieutenants said they are doing a fabulous job.

- **Completed Activities**

Mr. Coppolla noted orientation was completed for the 8 new firefighters. The Joint Active Assailant Practical Field Training with NPD and Norwalk EMS located at the old Norden building site was completed. Tiller operator training is ongoing.

- **Upcoming/Scheduled**

CPR refreshers have been completed. Roof rope rescue training is in process. The department will be cutting a flat roof at Cranbury School next week. There is a possibility for training at the old Hatch & Bailey site. The heavy vehicle stabilizing and lifting class schedule has been finalized. The propane truck demonstration with Rural Fuels has been scheduled and noted there is no cost for this training. The Haz-Com training has been finalized for the week of July 10th – 13th. Mayor Rilling noted that the training is very commendable.

10. LOCAL 830 REPORT

There were no items.

11. OLD BUSINESS

There were no items.

12. NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Gatto acknowledged that Firefighter John Eagen submitted his resignation after a 28- year career, effective June 30th, 2023. Mayor Rilling acknowledged that Firefighter John Eagen's resignation was accepted with regrets and thanks.

14. PERSONNEL

The board entered executive session at 3:23 pm and reconvened at 3:51 pm. Mayor Rilling noted during executive session, there were no motions, no votes, nor any other business.

15. ADJOURNMENT

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**
**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE SECONDED THE MOTION**
**** MOTION PASSED UNAMIOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 3.52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Watson - Telesco Secretarial Services