

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER OSCAR DESTRUGE
COMMISSIONER LARRY L. BENTLEY

REGULAR MEETING
June 19, 2018

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Oscar Destruge,
Commissioner Larry Bentley

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Assistant Chief Chris King, Fire Marshal
Broderick Sawyer, Michele DeLuca, Deputy Director of
Emergency Management

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

Mayor Rilling introduced Commissioner Bentley to those present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting – May 15, 2018

The following corrections were noted:

Page 2, under Operations Report, paragraph 2, bullet point 4, please change the following from:

On April 2, 2018, there was a kitchen at 27 Styles Lane and that damage from the fire was noticed to the stovetop, cabinets and microwave.

To: On April 2, 2018, there was a kitchen fire at 27 Styles Lane and that damage from the fire was contained to the stovetop, cabinets and microwave.

Page 4, paragraph 1, line 10: please change the following from: “also talk explain the process.” to: “also explain that process.”

Page 4, under Emergency Management, paragraph 1, please change the following from: “held on June 16, 2018,” to: “held on June 20, 2018,”

Page 8, paragraph 2, line 5, please change the following from: “of the house safety”
To: “of the house safely”

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2018.**

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2018 AS CORRECTED PASSED WITH TWO IN FAVOR (RILLING AND DESTRUGE) AND ONE ABSTENTION (BENTLEY).**

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT.

a. Budget Report

Chief Gatto reviewed the budgetary figures and said that the department was currently below the budget with 95.7% with two weeks to go before the end of the fiscal year. He reviewed the details of the budget with the Commissioners.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Operations Report

Assistant Chief King reviewed the various categories of fire calls, most of which were for EMS. The discussion moved to false alarm activations and the procedure for handling them.

FIRE MARSHAL’S REPORT

a. Summary of Activities

b. Fire Reports

c. Fire Marshal Fees.

Fire Marshal Sawyer reviewed his may report as contained in the packet. Fire Marshal Sawyer said that they had to send out 30 second notice for inspection. If the property owners do not respond, then the Fire Marshal will get an order to comply.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Emergency Management Update.

Ms. DeLuca presented her report and gave a brief overview of the upcoming hurricane tabletop exercise scheduled to take place tomorrow at Station 2.

She displayed a new water bottle that has a flyer in it about staying hydrated during the summer months. These bottles are being distributed from the Community Health Center, the Senior Center and other locations where there is a population of vulnerable individuals. EMS will be sharing the cost for \$600.00 towards the bottles.

TRAINING REPORT.

- a. **Company Training Objectives**
 - **Pump Operator Refresher (Class B Firefighting Foam)**
 - **Steel/Commercial Door Forcible Entry**
- b. **Department Training**
 - **Active Assailant Training With PD and EMS**
- c. **CPR Classes**
 - **Captain Christopher Riccio and Firefighter Michael Delaney Delivered the CPR Class to the 7 Interns**
 - **Firefighter Edward Maher Delivered CPR Class to 8 City Hall Employees. (Note of a Job well done. Attached)**
- d. **High School Interns**
 - **Preplanning Commercial Occupancies Gathering Basic Data For FD Response**
 - **Received CPR Training**
 - **Various FD Training Sessions (Marine Ops, Foam, Forcible Entry, Extrication)**
- e. **Public Safety Cadets**
 - **Fire Behavior and Extinguishers**
 - **Fire Prevention Services Provided The Training, Extinguishers and Prop.**

Deputy Chief Bassett will be no longer be the training officer after July 1st. Deputy Chief McCallum, will be taking over.

Chief Gatto presented the training report, including a brief overview on the training for dealing with an active shooter in the “warm area”, practice with new tactical gear and working on forced entry into a commercial building.

Chief Gatto gave a brief overview on the various aspects of the training program. Mayor Rilling said that he would like to recognize the improvements that Deputy Chief Bassett had made to the training program.

LOCAL 830 REPORT.

There are no items to discuss at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Fire Station Project Updates

Captain Hines was not present. Chief Gatto reviewed the Fire Station Repair and Maintenance report dated June 19, 2018 with the Commissioners. He noted the new tile flooring at the Meadow Street Station.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no new items to discuss at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Gatto gave a brief overview of the recent Deepwood Lane residence explosion. He distributed copies of some of the thank you notes that the firefighters had received from the neighborhood children.

PERSONNEL

Update on Fire Department Candidates—

Chief Gatto announced that all five have accepted their appointment and will be starting at the Fire Academy shortly.

Fire Inspector –

Chief Gatto said that the two Part Time Fire Inspectors have been excellent. Their loss will be felt. The next Fire Marshal's class begins in September. Chief Gatto said that there was only a \$33,000 variance between the two Part Time positions and a new Full Time Fire Inspector. If the Commission decided to hire a Full Time Inspector, the position would have to be posted and an exam scheduled. Fire Marshal Sawyer said that the ground that the department gained with the two Part Time Inspectors will be lost because of the number of buildings that need inspections. He said optimally, he would like to have two Full Time Inspectors. Norwalk has a small department in comparison to

Bridgeport, Stamford and Danbury. Discussion followed about the salary and staffing issues.

Mayor Rilling asked if this information can be prepared for a vote in July.

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO AUTHORIZE CHIEF GATTO TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PROCESS TO ADD ONE FULL TIME FIRE INSPECTOR.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services