

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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

REGULAR MEETING
June 18, 2019

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

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Assistant Chief Chris King; Fire Marshal Broderick Sawyer, Michelle DeLuca, Emergency Management

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 29, 2019.

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF MAY 29, 2019 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF MAY 29, 2019 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT.

a. Budget Report.

Chief Gatto reported that the budget remains on target. There will be a more detailed report next month. It appears that there will be a surplus due to reductions in the vacancies and surplus costs.

Chief Gatto said that the sick time total also came in lower, but the injuries on duty increased. The Commissioners reviewed the monthly figures. Chief Gatto pointed out that there were certain months that had five weeks, which makes it appear that the expenses increased during that month.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Operations Report.

Assistant Chief King reviewed the various categories of fire calls as outlined in his reports for May 2019. Mayor Rilling asked if the Fire Department works with Police Department on the Unintentional Alarms. Assistant Chief King said that they did. Mayor Rilling said that the unintentional alarm numbers have decreased. Assistant Chief King agreed.

Assistant Chief King then reviewed the notable calls for the month of May.

Assistant Chief King distributed copies of the SOP policies to the Commissioners. He said that they were working on updating everything into electronic formats. All the firefighters and officers have access to the policies electronically.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

a. Summary of Activities.

b. Fire Reports.

c. Fire Marshal Fees.

Fire Marshal Sawyer reviewed the details of the reports. He said that it would be important to get regular feedback. After checking with Ms. Blair at Customer Service, the last complaint was in 2015. Now Fire Marshal Sawyer said that he would like to set up a system to get more regular feedback.

Chief Gatto gave the Commissioners an update on the Fire Inspector Department staffing. Due to a number of job changes and injuries, the Department is falling behind. They may be able to administer a test for Fire Inspector in August.

Fire Marshal Sawyer said that Bridgeport Fire Department has a great smoke alarm program and he suggested that Norwalk might want to consider it. Fire Marshal Sawyer said that he would contact Bridgeport Fire Marshal Polite about the program. Assistant Chief King said that some of the engines have smoke alarms stocked on them, so if they

see an area that needs one, they can put on in. They also carry batteries to replace dead batteries.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Emergency Management Update.

Ms. DeLuca said that at a recent program they expected 30 people, but 120 people attended. She listed a number of the City Departments that were not able to attend and gave an overview of the program. Mayor Rilling suggested that they have a PowerPoint presentation for those who could not attend.

Ms. DeLuca gave the details about the EMS class scheduled for the 19th at Columbus Magnet.

TRAINING REPORT.

Company Training Objectives

- a. Pump Operations for the Fire Scene**
- b. Building Construction and Occupancy Load**
- c. Extrication and Hurst Tool Review**

Chief Gatto explained that Deputy Chief McCallum was not in attendance and presented his report. He noted that they were thinking about obtaining some Jersey barriers for training purposes.

LOCAL 830 REPORT.

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Fire Station Project Updates

Chief Gatto reviewed the Repairs and Maintenance Report.

- **Station Boiler Replacements** –Replacements should begin in late summer or early fall.
- **Station 5** - (Meadow Street) Redesigning bathroom and bunk room. Drawings are ready and there will be a separate gym area. The kitchen will be remodeled.
- **100 Fairfield** - A report has come in stating the roof is leaking in two

locations.

NEW BUSINESS.

a. Entry Level Exam

On June 10th, Chief Gatto, Mr. Burney and a number of others attended a meeting with the testing company, IO Solutions. The company understands Norwalk wishes to improve their recruitments demographics. The company's current demographics were focused on the towns that participated. Chief Gatto said that after the meeting the general feeling was that the Department should take advantage of this testing service. Chief Gatto gave a brief overview of how the department could fine tune the selection process. IO Solutions is looking for a Spring 2020 exam but Chief Gatto said that they would like to have it earlier because of the time involved in background checks. Discussion followed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Gatto reviewed the recent letter that the Department received regarding a recent incident where the Marine unit assisted a boater who was injured. A copy of the email was included in the information packet.

PERSONNEL

There were no item to consider at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services