

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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

SPECIAL MEETING
May 29, 2019

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

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Assistant Chief Chris King; Deputy Chief Michael McCallum; Fire Marshal Broderick Sawyer; Firefighter Bill Ireland; Mr. Ray Burney, Personnel Director

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting – April 16, 2019.

The following correction was noted:

Page 3, under **Nat's Towing and Started Stabilization and Extraction Drill for Large Vehicles**, paragraph 1, line 1: please change the following from:

“Lajoie's provided the bus”

to: “Deputy Chief McCallum reported Lajoie's provided the bus”

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2019 AS CORRECTED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2019 AS CORRECTED 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.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Operations Report.

Assistant Chief King reviewed the various categories of fire calls as outlined in his reports for April 2019. He noted that the bulk of the calls were for EMS and noted that there were 22 EMS calls where firefighters assisted with the driving or in the back of the ambulance. Assistant Chief King also reviewed the recent significant fire calls with the Commissioners.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

a. Summary of Activities.

b. Fire Reports.

c. Fire Marshal Fees.

Fire Marshal Sawyer reviewed his report contained in the information packet. He also commented that the third floor of the Soundview Avenue Building Fire on April 21st appeared to be operating as an illegal rooming house.

Fire Marshal Sawyer said that the proposed ordinance regarding inspections for one and two family homes is required to have a public hearing.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Emergency Management Update.

Chief Gatto stated that Ms. DeLuca was not able to be present. He then presented her report as follows:

- June 13th is the new date for the Emergency Management/Hurricane Season meeting at the EOC. It will serve as a refresher course for the plan, particularly for the new staff. Topics will include EOC activation, sheltering, debris management, recovery and much more.

- On June 19th and 20th, the City is hosting a Medical Preparedness and Response to Dynamic Incidents Program that is being offered for free to the Police Department, Fire Department, EMS among others. Norwalk responders had the first opportunity to register before registration opened to interested parties in the regional area. Each class is 8 hours long and will be offered twice. The Public Safety cadets will role play the victims.

- The Hazard Mitigation Grant is now open. Possible projects include a building feasibility study for a new Police Department Marine Building at Veteran's Park and a flood warning system. This is the same fund that can be used for private/residential home elevations. Ms. DeLuca has requested more details on this grant.

Chief Gatto noted that Ms. DeLuca had compiled a number of safety tips included on the new announcement screen in the first floor foyer.

TRAINING REPORT.

Company Training Objectives

- a. Review City of Norwalk Affirmative Action and Anti-Harassment policies**
- b. Review updated Emergency Response and Safe Driving SOP**
- c. Training for Report Writing for All Company Officers. (Honing our skills)**
- d. Pump Operations for Fire Scene.**

Deputy Chief McCallum presented his report.

Mayor Rilling asked if there was any observation training sessions between the fire fighters and police officers. Deputy Chief McCallum said the Police and Firefighters have a good relationship in Norwalk. However this is not the case in other municipalities.

Assistant Chief King said that they had received three requests about MVAs and the officers had written such clear reports that there were no additional questions.

Mayor Rilling asked if the Department had updated their SPOs. Chief Gatto said that Assistant Chief King was working on it.

Mayor Rilling asked if there was a national standard. Assistant Chief King said that there was an insurance ISO rating and that Norwalk was rated in the mid 2s. Due to the fact that the City's water is provided through private companies and hydrant issues, that is the highest that the City will be able to score. Discussion followed.

LOCAL 830 REPORT.

Update on Local 830 Golf Outing which benefits the CT Burn Foundation.

Firefighter Ireland reported the finalized the numbers on golf outing was over \$4,000 and will go to CT Burn Foundation. The check will be presented in the new few weeks.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Fire Station Project Updates

Chief Gatto reviewed the Repairs and Maintenance Report.

- **Station Boiler Replacements** – The bid has been awarded to Savemore Cooling and Heating. Replacements should begin in late summer or early fall.
- **Station 1** - (Broad River) Waiting on the architecture drawings.
- **100 Fairfield** - The steel for the area over the skylights is in the process of being fabricated.

NEW BUSINESS.

a. Entry Level Exam

Chief Gatto reported that the telephone conference call with IO Solutions and Chief Gatto, Assistant Chief King, Deputy Chief McCallum and Mr. Burney took place. Chief Gatto said the Department had asked their questions and received good feedback. IO Solutions will be coming to Middletown, Connecticut on June 10th. They are looking to schedule a March 2020 test. Mr. Burney thought they should attend the June 10th meeting.

Mayor Rilling said that he was concerned about the fact that if someone else controls the list, the Department may not have the opportunity to draw from the top.

Mayor Rilling said that he also had concerns about the diversity and the adverse impacts of the testing. Mr. Burney said that the company had not been challenged in Connecticut. He added that the company would administer the test and then the Department would be able to construct the list with whatever parameters that the Department would like. Chief Gatto said that the Department would be responsible for the oral exams. Discussion followed.

Chief Gatto said that one recruitment issue was with the cost of the exam. Mr. Burney suggested that Norwalk could offer scholarships. Discussion followed.

Mayor Rilling said that the company would have to have some type of data regarding the racial make up of the candidates. He said that he wanted to know what the racial make up of previous testing candidates were. Mr. Burney said that IO Solutions was aware of Norwalk's objectives to increase their number of minority and female firefighters. Discussion followed.

Mayor Rilling said that if the City had a policy that if the firefighter is on the job for six months, the City could reimburse the firefighter for the cost of the CPAT and the cost of the test. Deputy Chief McCallum said that Bridgeport has a facility where candidates can go to practice for the CPAT before taking the actual CPAT test.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Gatto reviewed the two recent letters that the Department received. Copies were included in the information packet. One of the letters involved an offer from Mr. Tysen Canevari regarding adopting Station 1 (Broad River) for landscaping. Chief Gatto said that he felt this would be acceptable.

PERSONNEL

a. Firefighter Mark Monroe's Retirement Pension.

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED APPROVE THE REQUEST
REGARDING FIREFIGHTER MARK MONROE'S RETIREMENT PENSION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services