

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE
COMMISSIONER RABBI ITA PASKIND
COMMISSIONER HOWARD DIXON
COMMISSIONER STEVE FERGUSON

FIRE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 18, 2025

Via Zoom /Tele Conference

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner/Pastor Oscar Destruge;
Commissioner Howard Dixon; Commissioner Steve Ferguson

ABSENT: Commissioner Rabbi Ita Paskind

OTHERS: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Assistant Fire Chief Edward McCabe; Deputy Fire
Chief Joseph Coppola; Assistant Chief Mark Conte; Michele DeLuca,
Emergency Management; Fire Marshal Troy Donohue, Linda Shields.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Rilling called the roll. A quorum was present. Mayor Rilling introduced Mr. Steve Ferguson as the new Commissioner.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 2025

**** COMMISSIONER**

MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2025 MEETING.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2025 AS SUBMITTED PASSED WITH TWO IN FAVOR (DESTRUGE, DIXON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (FERGUSON).**

IV. REPORTS

A. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

1. Budget Report

Chief Gatto noted that the budget figures were under the 66% mark. The overtime and salaries accounts will be monitored.

B. ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

Assistant Chief Conte presented his report to the Commissioners.

1. Buildings

- a. Station 1: Apparatus Floor (New Canaan Avenue)
Final project pricing is being finalized for submission to the appropriate committees.
- b. Station 3: Apparatus Floor (Van Zant Street)
The overhead door will be installed upon arrival.
- c. Station 4: Building Renovation (Westport Avenue)
The final cost analysis report has been completed and submitted.
Guardian continues to perform repairs as needed.
- d. Citywide: Overhead Door Replacement
All doors have been ordered. Installation will begin upon delivery.

The overhead door for Station 3 arrived earlier in the day.

C. ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

Assistant Chief McCabe presented his report.

1. Calls in February 2025

For February 2025, there were 609 incidents, averaging 21.75 per day.

The February Fire Calls included 10 fires and 39 rescues of which 37 involved motor vehicles. The Department responded to 381 EMS calls, 30 hazardous conditions, 17 service calls; 104 fire alarms and 28 good intents.

2. Summary of Calls Year to Date

From January 1st through February 28th, there was a total of 1,282 incidents and 2,065 total runs. Both categories show a slight increase from last year.

3. Fire Apparatus

- a. Two new Ford Explorer staff vehicles were delivered.
- b. New shift commander vehicle (Car 2) ready to be upfitted.

4. Operations

- a. Standard Operating Procedures updated for ladder and rescue company operations at structure fires.
- b. First round of interviews conducted for lateral firefighters candidates to fill four vacancies.

5. Notable Incidents Since Last Commission Meeting

- a. Three structure fires in the first nine days of March.

There are 12 vacancies and the four firefighters are lateral hires. If the new lateral hires are already certified by the Fire Academy, they do not have to retake the course. This saves the Department both time and money.

D. FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Fire Marshal Donohue presented his report.

1. Summary of Activities

2. Fire Marshal Fees

3. Fire Marshal's Office Calls

Fire Marshal Donohue greeted the Commissioners and presented his report. There were 173 inspections in February. There were no notifications. There were no Public Education events but 1 smoke detector installation was done and 38 Plan Reviews which yielded \$4,450 in revenue. Two Liquor Licenses were issued for \$130. The total income for the month of September was \$2,280.

There were 6 fire investigations of which were 4 fires and 1 code violations. The multi-unit inspections continued on two sites with 256 unit inspections. There was one new part time hire in the Office. Fire Marshal Donohue then gave a brief overview of the types of inspections that were done.

E. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Emergency Management Update

Ms. DeLuca presented her report. The main focus during the past month has been Community Education. Ms. DeLuca is trying to create additional FEMA documents in some of the various languages such as Haitian Creole. There will be an outreach to have residents sign up for Emergency Notification. There is a QRI code on the City's website.

F. TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Deputy Chief Coppola presented his report.

1. Current Training Activities

- a. Utilization of houses on Oxford Street (at the new school construction site) slated for demolitions for hands on destructive training, including the following tactical disciplines:
 - Vertical Ventilation (Roof Cutting)
 - Hose line stretches
 - Window cut-downs for RIT operations
 - Wall breaching for self-rescue
 - Window Ventilation
 - Vent-Enter-Search techniques
 - Aerial Positioning
 - Portable and roof ladder Evolutions
 - Overhaul techniques
 - Balloon-Frame building construction familiarization

- b. Pre-Incident Planning for data for First Due
- c. 1 3/4" & 2.5" hose line deployment for all Engine Companies
- d. Ongoing operator training for Aerial Operators on Trucks 1, 2 & 3

2. Completed Training Activities

- a. First Due Software training for company officers
- b. Technical Rope Rescue Training with Rescue Company Members
- c. Roof operations at vacant buildings for all shifts

3. Upcoming/Scheduled Training Activities

- a. Deputy Chief Promotional Examination (April/May 2025)
- b. Area familiarization of new Norwalk High School construction project
- c. Blood drawings for 2025 NFPA 1582/OSHA/DOT Medical Evaluations
- d. Medical Evaluations (Physicals) for 2025
- e. Site tours at the new Wegmans Supermarket & Target on Connecticut Avenue

Deputy Chief Coppola then gave a brief summary of the types of physicals that the Department members are required to have on a yearly basis. The discussion moved to the various health programs that the firefighters have available, such as cancer screening.

The first schedule walk through at NHS will be held on the 20th.

Mayor Rilling asked about the Deputy Chief exam. The written component will be on the 24th and the oral exam will be given the following week.

G. LOCAL 830 REPORTS

1. There are no items at this time.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter (Attached)

Chief Gatto then presented a letter from Ms. Tracy Evans, thanking the Firefighters from Station 1 who have assisted those who have medical issues.

Commissioner/Pastor Destruge said that there was recent medical episode at his church and the Fire Department responded within 4 minutes.

I. PERSONNEL

1. There are no items at this time.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one present from the public who wished to address

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. There are no items to consider at this time.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. There are no items to consider at this time.

VIII. UPCOMING MEETINGS – April 15, 2025

Commissioner Dixon said that he had spoken about including the Attenuator Truck in the Memorial Day Parade so that more people would be aware of it.

Commissioner Ferguson said that he works in a bank on Westport Avenue and passes the Westport Avenue station on a daily basis. Deputy Chief Coppola invited Commissioner Ferguson to visit the stations.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER DIXON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

City of Norwalk
Fire Commission
Regular Meeting
March 18, 2025

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services