

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER OSCAR DESTRUGE
COMMISSIONER CURTIS LANGLEY

REGULAR MEETING
MAY 17, 2106

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Commissioner Curtis Langley

STAFF: Fire Chief Laurence Reilly, Deputy Chief Gino Gatto,
Deputy Chief Bassett, Lefty Petridis, Union President; Fire
Marshal Chris Hansen; Captain Timothy Reardon, Lieutenant
Brian Thies; NFD Chaplain Monsignor William Scheyd,
Fairfield Fire Chief Denis McCarthy

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting April 19, 2016.

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED THE MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2016 REGULAR MEETING.**

**** COMMISSIONER LANGLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2016 REGULAR MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Special Meeting April 22, 2016

**** COMMISSIONER LANGLEY MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING ON APRIL 22, 2016.**

**** MAYOR RILLING SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
ON APRIL 22, 2016 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEM

It was noted that on the agenda, Assistant Chief Gino Gatto's name was incorrectly listed and Deputy Chief Albert Bassett was incorrectly listed as Deputy Training Director Albert Bassett.

Swearing In for:

- **Chief Laurence Reilly**
- **Assistant Chief Gino Gatto**
- **Deputy Chief Albert Bassett**
- **Captain Timothy Reardon**
- **Lieutenant Brian Thies**

Mayor Rilling thanked all the firefighters who were attending the meeting for all their work in keeping Norwalk residents safe.

Fire Chief Reilly called Lieutenant Brian Thies forward and administered the oath of office to him. His Lieutenant's badge was pinned on by a family member.

Mayor Rilling called Captain Timothy Reardon forward and administered the oath of office to him. His Captain's badge was pinned on by a family member.

Fire Chief Reilly called Deputy Chief Albert Bassett forward and administered the oath of office to him. His Deputy Chief's badge was pinned on by a family member.

Mayor Rilling called Assistant Chief Gino Gatto forward and administered the oath of office to him. His Assistant Chief's badge was pinned on by a family member.

Mayor Rilling called Fire Chief Laurence Reilly forward and administered the oath of office to him. His Chief's badge was pinned on by a family member.

Chief Reilly congratulated all those promoted and thanked all the Fire Commissioners for their hard work.

RECESS.

Mayor Rilling declared a recess at 2:26 p.m. He reconvened the meeting at 2:51 p.m.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT.

- **Budget.**

The budget remains on track. Chief Reilly gave a brief overview of the figures.

Chief Reilly said that there may be a special appropriation request because the soil at 100 Fairfield Avenue was contaminated when they removed the underground storage tanks. The environmental inspector said that it was apparent that the contamination had happened before the Fire Department had moved in.

ASSISTANT CHIEF REPORT

- **Operations Report.**

Chief Gatto reviewed the details of the various fire calls which averaged 15 calls per day for the month of April.

- **Fire Station Project Update.**

Station 1 – The architect’s plans have come in and the Department is waiting on the environmental study for asbestos.

Station 3 – The remodeling continues. The upstairs bathroom and the kitchen are done and the apparatus floor has been sanded and polyurethane has been applied. The staff promises to have the Station ready by the Memorial Day Parade.

Station 4 – Assistant Chief Gatto met with the appraiser and he is waiting for the appraiser’s report.

The Apparatus Maintenance Building has an issue with the underground storage tanks. He said that the Department was waiting on permission from the DOT to repave the area where the tanks were removed.

- **SOP’s Update**

There are roughly 90 SOPs from the 1980’s to review, and to date 17 have been completed. Eight are currently in the review process by the Deputy Chiefs.

Commissioner Langley asked about the sampling taken from the underground storage tanks. Asst. Chief Gatto reviewed the process. Chief Reilly said that he had just been informed by the environmental company that the State had given the go ahead for replacing the asphalt at 100 Fairfield Avenue.

Chief Reilly said that he had received word that the report on Cranbury area would be delivered on June 13th. Once it arrives, Chief Reilly said that he would forward it to the Commissioners.

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT

- **Summary of Activities**
- **Fire Reports**
- **Fire Marshal Fees**

Fire Marshal Hansen presented his report. One staff member is on light duty, which increased the workload. One issue is the on call after hours rotation. With only two staff members, it would require being on call all night every other week. Having a third staff member would lighten the workload significantly.

Last month, the department generated approximately \$2,700.

Mayor Rilling asked what was being done to replace Fire Marshal Hansen since he was going to retire soon. Chief Reilly said that they would have to review the contract requirements of the job and he thought the issue could be resolved by the time Fire Marshal Hansen officially retires. Discussion followed about the details of the qualifications.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Ms. DeLuca was not present. Chief Reilly said that on June 10th, Ms. DeLuca would be planning a class for the City Department heads regarding pre-hurricane training.

TRAINING REPORT.

- **Completing the Monthly Training Objectives (Pumping Apparatus)**

Deputy Chief Bassett reviewed the details of the class.

- **Health, Behavior and Peer Support Training**

Deputy Chief Bassett said that the staff had attended a Trauma Recovery class presented by the social workers who provided some training a few months ago.

- **School Careers Event (Brien McMahon/West Rocks)**

Deputy Chief Bassett said that the staff had been working on presenting potential careers in public safety to Norwalk students.

- **Intern from Darien High School Working with the Department.**

Deputy Chief Bassett said that there was an intern working at the department on various projects and learning about the various shifts.

UNION PRESIDENT

There were no items to consider.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Rilling wanted to get an update on offers of employment. Deputy Chief Bassett said that there were 10 offers of employment made and that one individual has asked for a deferment to February. The other candidates are in the process of fingerprinting and background checks.

Mayor Rilling said that he felt that the job candidates were top notch individuals.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items to consider.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items to consider.

PERSONNEL

Regular Retirement Date: Firefighter Joseph Malizia	06/30/2016
Regular Retirement Date: Captain Ward Hope	06/30/2016
DROP Pension Retirement Date:	
Firefighter Alfred Ragsdale	06/03/2016
Firefighter Calvin James	06/03/2016
Firefighter Richard Lozinak	06/03/2016
Firefighter Ralph Mercurio	06/23/2016
Fire Head Mechanic Scott Plank	06/08/2016
Acting Fire Marshal Christian Hansen	06/29/2016

Chief Reilly reviewed the two upcoming retirements and those who had the DROP Pension Retirements Date.

Mayor Rilling asked that the retirement letters be drafted for the Commission to sign at the next Fire Commission meeting. Chief Reilly made a note of it.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER LANGLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MAYOR RILLING SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services