

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER OSCAR DESTRUGE
COMMISSIONER CURTIS LANGLEY

REGULAR MEETING
MAY 16, 2017

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling; Commissioner Curtis Langley;
Commissioner Oscar Destruge

STAFF: Assistant Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Fire Marshal Broderick Sawyer;
Michele DeLuca, Deputy Director of Emergency Management;
Lefty Petrides, Local 830 President

OTHERS: Fire Fighter Adam Sussman, Mrs. Sussman, Hannah
Sussman, Miles Sussman, Henry DeStruge

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting April 18, 2017.

**** COMMISSIONER LANGLEY MOVED THE MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2017
AS CORRECTED.**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 1, **FOOTER:** please change the date from “ April 8, 2017” to “April 18, 2017”

Page 2, **FOOTER:** please change the date from “ April 19, 2016” to “April 18, 2017”

Page 3, under “**New Engine Purchase**”, paragraph 1, line 1: please change “engine

trucks in East Norwalk” to “engine companies”

Page 3, under **NEW BUSINESS**, paragraph 1, line 3: please change “denomination” to “decontamination”.

Page 4, paragraph 1, line 1 please change the following from:

“then the water goes into a filter and is encapsulated. There is also an oil and water separator. In Europe, they rely on respirators, which the Norwalk Fire Department also uses.”

To: “then the water goes into the sewer system for treatment. There is also an oil and water separator. Europe is setting the standard for those using respirators.”

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2017 AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO CONSIDER THE SWEARING IN OF FIRE FIGHTER ADAM SUSSMAN TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT NEXT.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PERSONNEL.

Swearing in – LT. Adam Sussman.

Assistant Chief Gatto introduce Fire Fighter Sussman and his family to the Commissioners. Fire Fighter Sussman came forward and Mayor Rilling administered the oath of office to Fire Fighter Sussman. Mrs. Sussman then pinned the Lieutenant’s badge on her husband.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT.

• Budget.

Assistant Chief Gatto presented the Chief’s Report as Chief Reilly is on vacation. Assistant Chief Gatto said that the total budget is at 83% as of May 10th. Last year, the Department was at 85% at the same time. He said that the Department was confident that they would be fine going forward.

Commissioner Destruge noted that the budget report was difficult to read because of the color of the ink used.

Mayor Rilling said that he appreciated the fact that the Department was keeping the expenditures down based on the 2% decrease in spending.

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE CHIEF'S REPORT AS PRESENTED.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ASSISTANT CHIEF REPORT

• Operations Report.

Assistant Chief Gatto reviewed the details of the various fire calls which averaged 15.3 calls per day for the month of April as listed in his written report.

He gave an assessment of the fire on April 1st that involved a fatality. Discussion followed about providing the public with some information about dealing with issues about hoarding and the dangers involved with this situation. Assistant Chief Gatto said that they had spoken to Channel 12 about this. Fire Marshal Sawyer said that the owner had been cited for blight in the yard and had simply moved everything from the yard into the house. Discussion followed.

Chief Gatto reviewed the remaining structure fires and said that each of the structure fires were investigated by the Fire Marshal's Office.

• Assistant Mechanics Position Update.

Assistant Chief Gatto reminded the Commissioners that there had been a miscommunication in the original posting for the Assistant Mechanic's position. Since then, it was reposted and there have been 14 applications received.

**** COMMISSIONER LANGLEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE ASSISTANT CHIEF'S REPORT AS PRESENTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT

Fire Marshal Sawyer presented his report.

Commissioner Destruge asked what happens with the revenue from the inspection fees. Fire Marshal Sawyer said that it goes into the general fund.

Mayor Rilling asked if there had been any changes with the staff in the Fire Marshal's Office. Fire Marshal Sawyer gave him a brief update on the status. Assistant Chief Gatto

gave an overview of the possible candidates and the use of per diem staff. Discussion followed.

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT AS PRESENTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Emergency Management Update.

Ms. DeLuca said that June 1st is the start of hurricane season. She said that they would be holding a program in the City Hall atrium about hurricane preparedness.

Ms. DeLuca said that they were working on GIS with the Public Works Department so that people can report damages to the department and it will be easier to compile the data.

Work is continuing on establishing the points of contact for safety and security at City Hall.

**** COMMISSIONER LANGLEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT AS PRESENTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TRAINING REPORT.

- **Company Training Objectives –April/May**
 - **Quarterly SCBA including Rapid Intervention SCBA**
 - **Standpipe Operations**
- **Department Training**
 - **Completed the Mental Health for First Responders Program**
 - **Eversource Gas Emergencies Class**
- **CPR**
 - **Lt. Riccio and Lt. Rywolt Completed a CPR Instructor Program.**
- **Pathways Fire Rescue Academy & Public Safety Cadets**
 - **Hose Stretching and Pump Operations**

Assistant Chief Gatto said that Deputy Chief Bassett was instructing a class. He gave an overview of the various training classes for both the companies and the departments.

Commissioner Langley asked about the Rapid Intervention SCBA equipment and how it was tested. Assistant Chief Gatto reviewed the updated process with the Commissioners.

LOCAL 830 REPORT.

There were no items to consider.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items to consider.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items to consider.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items to consider.

PERSONNEL CONT'D.

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA CONCERNING FIRE CHIEF REILLY'S PENDING RETIREMENT AND POTENTIAL REORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Rilling said that he would like to suggest that Assistant Chief Gatto be made the Acting Chief during this time. In the past there have been two Assistant Chiefs and Mayor Rilling said that it has greater accountability. Right now, the Fire Chief only has one Assistant Chief and everyone reports to that person. The Department is well run, and very professional but this is an opportunity to improve the overall organization of the department. Commissioner Langley and Commissioner Destruge both agreed.

Mayor Rilling said that working with Assistant Chief Gatto as an Acting Chief would give Assistant Chief Gatto a chance to work with the Department. He spoke about the earlier discussion regarding the staffing challenges for the Fire Marshal's Office.

He said that he wanted to open up the topic and have the Commissioners comeback at the next meeting to discuss it.

Commissioner Destruge said that he likes the idea of having two Assistant Chiefs. Mayor Rilling said as a former Police Chief, he felt that recognition goes a long way towards moral and helps the overall agency.

Union President Petrides said that he agreed about adding the Assistant Chief position.

Assistant Chief Gatto said that there were currently 148 positions with ten vacancies. Mayor Rilling said that it would be helpful to think in terms of future staffing. Assistant Chief Gatto said that he was hoping to have four of the ten vacant positions filled.

Commissioner Destruge asked if this would require a new contract. Mayor Rilling said that he did not think it would entail a new contract, but that there should be an offer made through Personnel.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services