

**CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE COMMISSION
APRIL 20, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Carol Andreoli; Richard A. Moccia, Mayor;

STAFF: Dennis McCarthy, Fire Chief, Norwalk Fire Department;
Lawrence Reilly, Michael Coffee, Fire Commissioner;
Glenn Iannaccone, Fire Marshall

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. by Ms. Andreoli, Chair

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 2, 2010 MEETING

- ** COMMISSIONER COFFEE MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 2, 2010 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief McCarthy presented the budget reports and stated that everything was on target and they are anticipating a slight surplus versus the budget. He added that one key issue that is left to resolve is the issue of freezing the budget line allocated for the secretary position. He stated that the city is starting the process of negotiations with the union contracts and both sides met yesterday with Jim Hasselkamp to review the rules and procedures. The formal negotiations are scheduled to begin May 24 through the first two weeks of June. Chief McCarthy added that he is hopeful that as soon as negotiations are finalized and that final budgets are resolved, money will be released to hire a secretary.

FIRE STATION PROJECT REPORT

Chief McCarthy stated that everything is in place to release the RFPs for the Architect, and he added that Alan Lo has been great with the experience he has with other City projects, such as the Police Station. He added that the issue with the second station operations and the realignment of personnel and equipment is in the development stage, with one proposal that reflects a move of the ladder truck from Broad River to West Avenue and the Rescue Truck to Broad River. Chief McCarthy explained that this shift equalizes equipment and personnel, strengthens the core unit at West Avenue, and improves the capability of response to the Cranbury area. He added that it is premature to discuss the specifics but to be assured that the plans will not impact other units in the City.

Chief McCarthy added that the RFP reflects an amount to the Architect to reorganize the stations, and again the intention is to equalize the personnel, equipment and strengthen response
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capability. Chief McCarthy said that he and Mr. Lo have worked on a time line to bring them through the design phase and demolition. There is \$1,600,000 approved in 2011, and the Finance Department has stated that they will need good budget numbers for the Capital budget by December. They will also include a formal presentation process of the relocation plan.

Emergency Management

Chief McCarthy stated that Ms. Deluca could not attend, but that at last week's Public Safety Committee meeting there was a discussion of the Emergency Management System in response to the March 12 storm, where he thanked Ms. Deluca, Mr. Alvord, and Ms. DeVecchio for their support and efforts during the storm recovery and emergency response. He added that the daily briefing sessions with CL&P were impressive and the efforts on Sunday by the City's IT Dept with systems back up were most appreciated.

He stated there were many lessons learned that can be put into action for future planning, and mentioned that the limited involvement with some Departments not fully engaged with the daily briefings, should have been better enforced with participation by all areas to ensure that issues were better covered. He added that for example, the Health Department would have been better equipped to handle reaching out to assist with shelter issues, and a proactive approach should have been followed to encourage departments to "lean in" to assist others on the team to assist those without power and steer them into assistance with Social Services.

Chief McCarthy stated that another lesson was that the Brien McMahon building was not equipped with the emergency generator capacity as required with the building renovation specifications created to identify the school as a City emergency location. He added that residents complained that after being told to go to Brien McMahon they discovered there was no power and after being told they could not take a shower or charge cell phones, they were disappointed.

Chief McCarthy stated that the "Notify Norwalk" system was a big problem and he prefers to go back to "code red" for a number of reasons. He added that the caller ID should not be the State of Connecticut but the City of Norwalk, and the system should be accessible by 911. Mayor Moccia stated that he prefers to be on the same page with one system, and added a suggestion that CL&P implement a reverse 911 system.

Mayor Moccia extended a statement of appreciation to the members of the Fire Department for their combined efforts in working together for the city's emergency preparedness efforts.

Assistant Chief Report

Operations Report

Assistant Chief Reilly presented the written report of notable incidents for February and March and highlighted that there was a house fire on February 6 at 25 Orlando Road due to a furnace mal-function, and a house fire on February 27 at 4 Catalpa Street.

Training Report

Recruit Training

Chief McCarthy recognized former Deputy Chief Prescott and stated he had done a great job and welcomed his position as the new Shift Commander.

In reference to bullet points from training, Assistant Chief Reilly reviewed the following:

March 3rd OSHA Compliance Meeting at the Dept. of Labor.

March 8: Pre-plan and tour of Avalon

April 6: Company training on Last Chance Filters for air packs.

Assistant Chief Reilly explained that this was another back-up that converts carbon dioxide into oxygen and filters out dangerous gasses.

April 8 Career Day at Norwalk High School

April 9 Technical Rescue Seminar at Fire Academy – where there are currently four new recruits attending the academy.

April 20: Alexander Wilton III 5th candidate on eligibility list in for background and physical.

Assistant Fire Chief Reilly stated that the Department has been awarded a Fire Prevention Grant for training on fire extinguisher systems with \$11,000 in matching funds.

Chief McCarthy added that the lease for the East Norwalk Firehouse and Third Taxing District has been forward to Corporation Counsel for review

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES/FIRE REPORTS

The Fire Marshal stated that the Fire Inspector's Activity Summary Report was contained in the packet and stated that the reason for the fire at Catalpa Street was from sawdust from a floor Public Safety Committee

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sander.

Fire Marshall Iannaccone stated requested a suspension of the rules to add an item to the agenda to discuss a proposed fee structure. A draft of the fee structure was distributed for discussion and Chief McCarthy requested that a matrix be pulled together to do a comparison of other cities. Fire Marshall stated that he would ask Paulette to revise the chart to add the matrix and he will present it for further review at the next meeting.

UNION PRESIDENT REPORT

The Union President was not present. There was no report.

OLD BUSINESS

Chief McCarthy stated that he continues to work on the issue with DPW of access to King Industries from Crescent Street for emergency access, and he will keep the Commissioners posted as to the outcome.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Chief Mccarthy stated that there has been a delay in combining and consolidating the website and Mayor Moccia responded that the delay was due to the number of comments and input being consolidated from many different departments. He added that they are striving to include video clips featuring the key City officials similar to other cities.

PERSONNEL

A. Deputy Chief Robert Talloni's Retirement

Chief McCarthy stated that Deputy Chief Talloni's retirement has been accepted and the Department wishes him well.

**** COMMISSIONER COFFEE MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION
(RETIREMENT) OF ROERT TALLONI.
** MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Assistant Mechanic Alan DiPietro joining the Drop Plan.

**** COMMISSIONER COFFEE MOTIONED TO ACCEPT ALAN DIPIETRO INTO
JOINING THE DROP PLAN.
** MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.**

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**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE
PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL ITEMS.**

**** MS. ANDREOLI SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox
Telesco Secretarial Services