

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE
COMMISSIONER RABBI PASKIND

FIRE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 16, 2024

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Oscar Destruge;
Commissioner Ita Paskind (3:02 p.m.)

STAFF: Assistant Fire Chief Edward McCabe; Deputy Fire Chief Joseph
Coppola; Assistant Fire Chief Mark Conte; Michele DeLuca,
Emergency Management; Assistant Fire Marshal K. McDonald,
Linda Shields, Thomas Reich

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

• **March 19, 2024**

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 19, 2024
MEETING.**

Commissioner Paskind joined the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

The following corrections were noted:

Page 2, under Structure Fire, please change the following from

“Residence were evacuated as the first fire companies arrived. have you smoke”
To:
“Residents were evacuated as the first fire companies arrived. Heavy smoke”

Page 3, paragraph 1, line 1: please change the following from:

“Rescue and command. Staff responded to the 3 alarm fire.”
To:
“Rescue and command staff responded to the 3 alarm fire.”

Page 3, paragraph 1, line 1: please change the following from:

“The initial call reported a fire on the kitchen.”
To:
“The initial call reported a fire in the kitchen.”

Page 3, paragraph 2, line 7: please change the following from:

“left the house I’m fit for occupancy.”
To:
“left the house unfit for occupancy.”

Page 3, paragraph 4, line 2, please change the following from:

“Additional interviews are planned to add their class, which”
To:
Additional interviews are planned to add to their class, which”

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 19, 2024 MEETING
AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

a. Budget Report

Assistant Fire Chief Edward McCabe presented Chief Gatto's report. The Department was within budget for the expenses, overtime and salaries category. This concludes the third quarter of the year. Going into the fourth quarter, the department is currently operating with an 8.9% surplus. He added that there were no new injuries in the past month.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

Assistance Fire Chief Conte presented his report.

a. Station Alerting System Upgrade

- 1. Final system testing nearing completion.**
- 2. System cut-over scheduled after all testing is complete.**

b. State Radio System Migration

- 1. The new system is in operation**

c. Buildings

- 1. Station 1: Apparatus Floor**
 - i. Price being obtained to conduct soil testing and slab inspection.**
- 2. Station 3: Apparatus Floor**
 - i. The RFP for a Contractor is being prepared.**
- 3. Station 5: Bathroom Renovation**
 - i. Project completed.**

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

Assistance Fire Chief McCabe presented his report.

- a. WATER RESCUE: On Wednesday, March 20, 2024, just after 5:00 p.m., a call was received via 911Dispatch and the Marine Emergency Channel requesting assistance near Cockenoe Island, where several vessels being operated by the Saugatuck Rowing Club had been swamped by a sudden squall. 19 individuals were in the 40-degree water without life vests. Norwalk Fire Department Marine 238 responded, along with the Norwalk PD Marine Unit, the Coast Guard, and numerous other regional assets, to assist the Westport Fire and Police Departments. Thanks to the coordinated rescue effort, all of the rowers were safely rescued, with two being transported to the hospital for hypothermia.
- b. Norwalk Fire Department's response SOP for King Industries has been updated, and a regional tabletop exercise has been planned as part of our ongoing partnership with King's onsite Fire & Safety Department.
- c. Graduation day at the Connecticut Fire Academy is Wednesday, May 22nd. Norwalk's graduates will join lateral hires to form a class of eight new Norwalk Firefighters.

Their first day on the job will be May 23rd.

- d. After discussions with Dispatch supervisors and receiving feedback from our membership, operating guidelines for the new state radio system have been finalized and are now in effect.

There were 671 incidents in March of 2024, which averages out to 22 per day. There were 27 fires and 38 rescues of which 29 were motor vehicle accidents. The Department responded to 392 EMS calls, 21 hazardous conditions, 26 service calls; 115 fire alarms and 52 good intents. There were 166 fewer incidents this January thru March than the previous year.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Ms. DeLuca said that there was a nor'easter, an earthquake and an eclipse all in one week.

Ms. DeLuca announced that she, Deputy Chief Coppola, and a firefighter completed the ICS-400 earlier in the day, which is required by FEMA.

Ms. DeLuca said that working with Public Works and Food Rescue, they were able to accept a large shipment of cantaloupes. The food was distributed to 35 regional agencies. She thanked all the partnerships for helping to get the food into the hands of those who need it.

On June 12th, there will be a disaster exercise focused on election security.

The emergency notification system is in the process of being transferred from Code Red to Everbridge. The Code Red service contract ends on July 1st.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

a. Summary of Activities

b. Fire Reports

c. Fire Marshal Fees

Assistant Fire Marshal McDonald presented his report.

For the month of March the Department there was a total of 233 inspections completed; 21 notifications sent and a few Public Education events held. 34 Plan Reviews and 6 Liquor licenses were done. There were 12 fires and 6 code issues. Assistant Fire Marshal McDonald gave the details.

At the suggestion of one of the part time Deputy Fire Marshals, the office was able to utilize a plan for inspecting the large scale multi-family residences. Since the large multi-family residences often have over 200 units, there were over 1,600 individual units inspected

TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Deputy Fire Chief Coppola gave a brief overview of the different items in his report.

a. Current Training Activities

1. New Driver/Pump Operator training ongoing on Engines 1 & 2
2. Truck 1 Driver Training and Familiarization ongoing
3. New Radio System Awareness and Orientation ongoing while we work through familiarization
4. Search and Rescue Operations in Training Mezzanine during inclement weather
5. Vehicle extrication and stabilization
6. Water Safety drill at Walk Bridge site

b. Completed Training Activities

1. Building Construction tours at West Avenue Construction Site w/ builders
2. Firefighter Down CPR techniques training
3. Norden Park Aerial Operations Maneuvers
4. Multi-Company Pump Training off site
5. Marine Division Navigational Electronics training
6. Extinguisher training with Middlesex Construction and FMO
7. Master Stream operations utilizing deck gun on pump apparatus
8. Fireground Performance Classroom with BC Facinelli (FDNY MPI Coordinator)

c. Upcoming/Scheduled Training Activities:

1. Confined Space Drill with Middlesex Construction at the Walk Bridge Construction Site
2. With HHC chosen as our new medical provider, NFPA Compliant Physicals are being planned to begin as soon as approval is given by HR.
3. ICS-400 (Fairfield Fire School (4/15/2024 & 4/16/2024) DC Coppola, FF Chila & Michele DeLuca
4. Host CFA Pump Operator certification course scheduled for May 2024 (6-day class) 2 host seats filled
5. Hazardous Materials Operational Refresher – in planning phase

Special Note:

A “Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response” (SAFER) grant application was submitted to FEMA by DC Coppola on April 10, 2024 for 4 firefighter positions to bring the staffing of Rescue 2 to 1 officer and 3 firefighters per shift. The amount of the grant is \$1,037,742.88 and covers the 4 firefighters for a period of 3 years. Grant Funding Opportunity #: EMW-2023-FF-00308

LOCAL 830 REPORT

There are no items at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to consider at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to consider at this time.

PERSONNEL

a. Congratulate Firefighter Madeline Jankowski on the birth of her twin boys.

Mayor Rilling congratulated Firefighter Jankowski on the recent additions to her family.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUCE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services