

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE
COMMISSIONER LARRY L. BENTLEY

REGULAR MEETING
April 16, 2019

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Commissioner Larry Bentley, Commissioner Oscar Destruge

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Assistant Chief Chris King; Deputy Chief Michael McCallum; Fire Marshal Broderick Sawyer; Michele DeLuca, Deputy Director of Emergency Management; Firefighter Bill Ireland; Mr. Ray Burney, Personnel Director

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting – March 19, 2019.

The following correction was noted:

Page 4, under **NEW BUSINESS, Entry Level Exam**, paragraph 2, line 2: please
Change the following from “85% while males” to “85% white males”.

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2019 AS CORRECTED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2019 AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT.

a. Budget Report.

Chief Gatto reported that the budget remains on target.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Operations Report.

Assistant Chief King reviewed the various categories of fire calls as outlined in his reports for March 2019. He noted that the bulk of the calls were for EMS. There were four car fires. Mayor Rilling asked if there were any common denominator. Deputy Chief King said that there wasn't anything in particular. One was due to hitting debris on the highway and some of them were due to poor repairs.

Deputy Chief King reviewed the recent significant fire calls with the Commissioners.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

a. Summary of Activities.

b. Fire Reports.

c. Fire Marshal Fees.

Fire Marshal Sawyer reviewed his report contained in the information packet. He said that there was only one outstanding administrative warrant because the other 22 property owners have contacted the office regarding inspections.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Emergency Management Update.

Ms. DeLuca presented her report.

TRAINING REPORT.

Company Training Objectives

a. Started Department Wide Annual Physicals

b. Completed Pump Operator Class We Hosted.

c. Review City of Norwalk Municipal Building Response Guide.

d. Took possession of School Bus Donated from Lajoie's Junk Yard and

Nat's Towing and Started Stabilization and Extraction Drill for Large Vehicles.

Lajoie's provided the bus for training purposes and Nat's towed it to the South Street site. The department will be using it with rescue dummies as passengers for equipment practice and removal drills. Once they have completed those drills, Nat's will tow the bus back to Lajoie's where it will be turned into scrap metal.

LOCAL 830 REPORT.

a. Update on the St. Patrick's Day Shirt Fundraiser for the St. Baldrick's Organization.

Firefighter Ireland reported that the proceeds from the t-shirt sale totaled \$1,400.

b. Update on Local 830 Golf Outing which benefits the CT Burn Foundation.

The event will be held on May 20th at Oak Hills Golf Course starting at 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Fire Station Project Updates

Chief Gatto reviewed the Repairs and Maintenance Report.

- **Station 1** - (Broad River) The bidding process has started, bids are due on April 24th in order to have the item included on the May 1st Land Use Agenda. There is also work being done on a renovation for the first floor space.
- **Station 2** - (Connecticut Avenue) All the systems at Station 2 are working fine. They will be speaking with building management about spring house cleaning.
- **Station 3** – (Van Zant Street) The floor stabilization project is almost ready to go out to bid.
- **Station 4** - (Westport Avenue) The bidding process has started with the bids due April 24th in order to have the item included on the May 1st Land Use Agenda. New energy efficient windows are being considered and the installation of a new LVT flooring is underway.
- **Station 5** – (Meadow Street) A plan for some interior changes is being prepared.
- **100 Fairfield** - The Young Developers have finished the roofing aspect and are

continue to work on the steelwork and flashing.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS.

a. Entry Level Exam

Chief Gatto updated the Commissioners regarding the Consortium of Towns for Entry Level testing. He emailed the coordinator about the test and the coordinator and she will be in town around June 10th. They want to review, revise and adjust the test exam. Chief Gatto recommended giving this a try. The number of vacancies will be down to only four or five positions. He said that he needs to find out if they were locked in to the test for two years. The contact with the Testing Coordinator will most likely be a conference call and Mr. Burney will sit in on it.

Mayor Rilling said that he had mentioned lateral transfers last month. Mayor Rilling said that the Police Department had used this and gotten a number of quality candidates. He said that the administration would want to have that discussion in the future. Discussion followed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Fire Prevention Grant – Fire Marshal Sawyer said that they applied for the grant and received funding for two hydrocarbon detectors. He explained that this would allow the firefighters to identify areas where there were hydrocarbons, such as locating hydrocarbons on the back seat of a burned vehicle.

Chief Gatto read a letter from a resident thanking the department for their assistance when she experienced chest pains and subsequent health needs. (See Attached)

PERSONNEL

a. Executive Session to Discuss Contract Extensions for Chief Gatto and Assistant Chief King.

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACT EXTENSIONS FOR CHIEF GATTO AND ASSISTANT CHIEF KING.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioner, Chief Gatto, Assistant Chief King and Mr. Burney entered into Executive Session to discuss contractual extensions at 3:40 p.m. They returned to Public

Session at 3:52 p.m. No motions were made and no votes were taken during Executive Session.

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO EXTEND BOTH CHIEF GATTO AND ASSISTANT CHIEF KING CONTRACTS THROUGH DEC. 31, 2022.**

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services