

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE

REGULAR MEETING
March 21, 2023
Via Zoom Conference.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Oscar Destruge

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Assistant Chief Mark Conte; Michele DeLuca
Assistant Chief Edward McCabe; Deputy Chief Jonathan Maggio; Fire
Marshal Kirk McDonald; Tina Fogell, Personnel Director;
Thomas Reich, Linda Shields

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

a. Special Meeting on Thursday, March 2, 2023

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2023 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

There are no items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Budget Report

Chief Gatto presented his report and explained that not much had changed since the meeting early in the month. He explained that the Department had been requested to reduce the Operating budget by \$11,000, which they are working on.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

Assistant Chief Conte presented his report.

- a. Adashi Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) and Command Software Upgrade
 - o Software build in process.
- b. Station Alerting System Upgrade
 - o System Build in process.
- c. Buildings
 - o Station 3 Apparatus Floor
 - o Funding approval granted
 - o Station 5 Roof Replacement
 - o Roof replacement scheduled for 03/28, weather permitting
 - o OSHA Compliance, deadline is June 12th.
 - o Compliance work over 85% complete

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATION

Assistant Chief McCabe presented his report.

- a. The Department's 2010 KME tractor drawn aerial has been brought to the Gowans-Knight company in Watertown for its scheduled refurbishment. The work is expected to take six months. Once completed, the apparatus will serve as Truck Company 1 out of the Broad River Station.
- b. The purchase of two new fire engines is moving forward with the department ready to award the contract and schedule a pre-build meeting.
- c. Positive feedback is being received from the Connecticut Fire Academy on Norwalk's six recruits, who are now five weeks into their training. The next two laterals have passed their medical and psychological evaluations as well as their background checks and will continue onboarding.
- d. A meeting was held on March 16th to schedule a joint agency active threat drill to ensure all city agencies are trained on the latest response strategies.

Mayor Rilling asked when the new recruits and the lateral transfers will be joining the department. Chief Gatto said that there would be two new firefighters per shift joining the Department as of June 1st.

Assistant Chief McCabe also reviewed the number of calls for February 2023. There were 600 incidents, which is an average of 24 calls per day. He also reviewed the cumulative statistics for 2019 through 2023. Discussion followed about notable incidents. Assistant Chief McCabe said that they expect to have the reporting software up and running in the near future.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

- a. Summary of Activities**
- b. Fire Reports**
- c. Fire Marshal Fees**

Fire Marshal McDonald presented his report and reviewed the statistics with the Commissioners. There were 221 inspections done. He noted that there were four incidents of frozen pipes, which will require follow-up. The office is still using per diem inspectors.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- a. Emergency Management Update**

Ms. DeLuca said that memorial day was coming up and they would be creating an event plan for the parade.

June 1st is the start of hurricane season and there will be a small walk through on notifications, Hurricane 101 and other issues.

TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Deputy Chief Maggio presented his report.

- a. Current Activities**
 - 1. Wellness Coordinator - Daily Injury Prevention Program
 - 2. Vertical/Roof Ventilation
- b. Completed Activities**
 - 1. EMR/EMT/CPR renewal
 - 2. SAFER grant submission

Due to some unexpected delays and some network traffic, it is uncertain as to whether the grant submission was received by FEMA on time.

c. Upcoming/Scheduled:

1. PES – Personnel Escape System Training
2. OUPV – Operator of Un-inspected a Passenger Vessel
3. Standpipe Operations
4. Marine Training
5. Engine Company – EVOC
6. Ladder Company – EVOC

Mayor Rilling commented that both the Police Department and Fire Department were holding a number of training classes together.

LOCAL 830 REPORT

There are no items to consider at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

There are no items to consider at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

There are no items to consider at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

There are no items to consider at this time.

PERSONNEL

a. Executive Session:

o Discuss Personnel

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Chief Gatto and Ms. Fogell entered into Executive Session at 3:26 p.m. They returned to Public Session at 3:59 p.m. No actions were taken or motions made during Executive Session.

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO AFFIRM THE VOTE TAKEN AT THE MARCH 2ND MEETING REGARDING THE APPROVAL THE DISABILITY REQUEST FROM FIREFIGHTER ROOS.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUCE MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services