

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 15, 2016**

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

STAFF: Fire Chief Lawrence Reilly; Assistant Chief Gino Gatto;
Deputy Chief Bassett; Fire Marshal Chris Hansen, Michelle
DeLuca, Emergency Operations

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Mayor Rilling said that he would like to make note of a newspaper article. He said that there had been some firefighters at Shoprite and came upon a member of the staff needed intensive medical assistance. He outlined the various actions taken by the firefighters in providing this individual with life saving actions. Mayor Rilling said that it would be important to let people

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting – February 16, 2015.

Commissioner Destruge noted that the date for the minutes on the agenda was incorrect.

**** COMMISSIONER LANGLEY MOVED THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2016.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2016 AS SUBMITTED.**

ACTION ITEMS

There were no actions items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

• Budget Report

Chief Reilly said that as of March 8th, the department had used approximately 69% of the budget, which is on track. He then gave a brief overview of where the 2016-17 budget was in the process. Mayor Rilling said that he was pleased with the budget so far.

ASSISTANT CHIEF REPORT

• Operations Report

Assistant Chief Gatto presented his report to the Commissioners. He reviewed the two calls from 50 Washington Street, a fire at a condo unit and a car fire. The residents of the condo complex sent a thank you letter. Assistant Chief Gatto also reviewed the Shoprite incident that the Mayor had mentioned earlier. (See attached.)

- **EAP Peer Support Training**

Assistant Chief Gatto then spoke about a behavioral support group that was being formed. He announced that Captain Reardon will be leading the group.

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT

- **Summary of Activities**
- **Fire Reports**
- **Fire Marshal Fees.**

Fire Marshal Sawyer presented his report to the Commissioners. He said it would be good to have a protocol when hot works are being done, particularly after the two roof fires at Washington Street building. When contractors are doing hot work, they have to go to the Building Department but they do not have to come to the Fire Department. He said that he and Assistant Chief Gatto would be working the Building Department to distribute information about fire safety so that the contractors would not have to come to the Fire Department when hot work was being done.

Fire Marshal Sawyer gave a brief overview of the car fire, which may be arson.

Fire Marshal Sawyer said that he and Assistant Chief Gatto had a conversation with the developer doing the 61 Wall Street project earlier in the day. That project will have the very first self-parking car garage project in Connecticut. Fire Marshal Sawyer said that the developer will be sending the department a video on how the garage works. Assistant Chief Gatto outlined some of the safety features that the self-parking garage uses.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- **Warnable Application**

Ms. DeLuca reported that the City is working on upgrading the phone system for City Hall and the Health Department. Originally, the Board of Education had been looking at upgrading their system, but it was cut from the budget. On the City side, they are looking at a Warnable application through people's cell phones. This would allow the floor captains at City Hall to check people in and out for attendance. She gave the details of the pilot for the first and second floor. The system would allow the administration to issue alerts for things like Shut Down and Shelter in Place. The program will start at City Hall

and eventually expand to include other City buildings such as the Health Department and Public Works.

- **Safety Zone Project**

The Safety Zone project, which is a collaboration project with Steppingstones Museum, has been expanded from the pilot project. There will be a meeting on the 16th to work on the next steps.

- **Regional (WCOG) Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Every five years, the region has a Hazard Mitigation Plan that needs to be submitted to FEMA. It will be presented to the Common Council in April. Once it is approved, the plan will be good for five years.

Mayor Rilling said that he was still having a problem with the Code Red system and gave the details. Ms. DeLuca said that she would get copies of the Quick Launch to the Mayor.

TRAINING REPORT

- **Completing Monthly Training Objectives (SCBA/Personal Escape Systems)**

Deputy Chief Bassett reported that the SCBA/Personal Escape Systems would be running about another week before the staff moved on to HazMat training and the other April classes. There are some make-up EMS training classes going on, also.

- **Trauma Support Network Program (PTSD Awareness)**

Deputy Chief Bassett updated the Commissioners on the program. He said that there was a copy of the Trauma Recovery Network brochure included in the information packet. The program was presented last month and the feedback was very good.

- **New Engine Familiarization**

The work on the new pumper has been completed and the drivers are becoming more familiar with the new truck.

- **Captain's Exam**

The Captain's Exam has been completed and the results have been officially released.

Mayor Rilling said that he was very pleased that there were efforts being made to help the firefighters with PTSD. He added that members of the public just didn't understand the

trauma that the firefighters go through when there are tragic events.

Commissioner Langley asked if the department had chaplains. Chief Reilly said that there were a number of different chaplains.

UNION PRESIDENT

There were no items to consider.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items to consider.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no items to consider.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items to consider.

PERSONNEL

• Firefighters Entry Level Testing

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FIREFIGHTERS ENTRY LEVEL TESTING.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners and Fire Chief Reilly entered into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters regarding the exam at 3:37 p.m. The Board of Fire commissioners came out from executive session at 3:53 p.m. No motions were made and no votes were taken.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
S. L. Soltes

City of Norwalk
Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Meeting
March 15, 2016

Telesco Secretarial Services

From: Rickard, Edward [<mailto:Edward.Rickard@wchn.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 5:12 PM
To: Reilly, Lawrence
Cc: Soicher, Matt; Brubaker, James; Fischel, Jason; Smith, Todd
Subject: Commendation for Truck 1 ; Cardiac Arrest Save! - AED use.
Importance: High

2-23-2016

Chief Reilly,

It is not often we get a chance to write to you and we should do so more.

We think it all the time; try to thank FD in person and over the air after calls as they get quickly back into service before we can catch them.

We share stories amongst ourselves at shift change about how your staff saved our bacon that day or kept us from falling off some rickety stair case; every day it is something.

Your staff should be commended every day for the assistance they provide to everyone they encounter especially the citizens, sick and injured patients, our police and EMS staff.

Norwalk EMS has the occasion today to commend Captain Mike McCallum and his crew of Truck 1 for an outstanding job in saving the life of a middle age male patient who they witnessed going into cardiac arrest outside in a parking lot at approximately 1024 hrs. I understand these were Fire Fighter Marro, Fire Fighter Gilchrist Jr., and Fire Fighter Granton.

Our EMS crew, especially the paramedic who was assigned to the call was outspoken in their praise for your crew. I was here and assisted with receiving at the ED and I am deeply honored to have been asked to write it up.

Because of the quick actions of your truck crew, the patient immediately had his airway attended, was kept from injury and was immediately defibrillated by your staff as he was going into arrest and was very viable for the paramedic. ZERO time was lost. They also gathered some critical information that was important to patient resuscitation and continued survival in the hospital.

As has become the norm, your staff offer to drive our vehicles, ride in the back, provide one or multiple extra people if needed on any call for service to name only a few.

In addition to making everyone they touch feel comfortable and safe, they provide excellent patient care to the patients, help manage logistics, look after our well-being and the well-being of our equipment and vehicles. These guys save us each and every day, several times a day and we don't get to say it enough.

With that, I commend Captain McCallum and his crew. They are an outstanding reflection of their station, their administration and their department.

Thanks again for what you guys do. I feel very safe knowing you are either with us in person as we move through our shifts or you are a microphone click away at all times no matter what we encounter.

Respectfully,

Michael Rickard, BS, LP | Paramedic Supervisor
Norwalk Hospital | norwalkhospital.org
tel: 203-852-2259 cell: 203-810-6047



February 23, 2016

To the Editor:

On Sunday, February 21, my small dog woke me at 6:45am insisting to go outside (very unusual). As she and I exited my condo door, I heard yelling and saw thick black smoke rising from a neighboring condo. Much to my surprise and very shocking, flames were coming out of this neighbor's 2nd floor windows. He and another occupant were already outside and calling 911. He and I proceeded to ring doorbells of the adjacent condos to alert our other neighbors to no avail. However, much to my relief, a police car arrived within minutes and Norwalk Police Officer Green was there. He quickly made sure that no one was inside the burning condo and proceeded to alert and assist the occupants of the adjacent buildings. We all just stood there and watched the Norwalk Fire Department, Police Department, EMS, Emergency Services and a truck from Wilton Fire Department arrive. Their response time was amazing (less than 10 minutes) and they had the fire immediately contained. The smoke was thick and they needed to open up the roofs to release the smoke. We watched in amazement as they climbed the ladder carrying hoses and equipment onto the roof. We cannot say enough about these individuals. They were there to do a job, but at the same time they took the time to relieve our fears and answer our questions. We have many young children who live in the complex and they saw these real life "heroes" in action.

Unfortunately, the condo with the fire is uninhabitable and the adjacent condo has extensive smoke damage. We are thankful no one was seriously injured. We were very lucky that day. If it wasn't for the quick response of our fire department, many more condos could have sustained damage and individuals injured.

Thank you again Officer Green for arriving so quickly that day and many thanks to the Norwalk Fire Department especially the Broad River station and the Norwalk Police officers. You are the good guys and we are very glad we live in Norwalk. In addition, Joe from Property Management company also deserves a big thank you for being there all day and assisting the neighbors who were directly impacted by the fire.

Darli Ebling Kelly Daniels Anne Marie Ramppen
Foxboro Condominiums
Norwalk