

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE

SPECIAL MEETING

March 2, 2023
Via Zoom Conference.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Oscar Destruge

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Assistant Chief Mark Conte; Deputy Chief Jonathan Maggio; Assistant Chief Edward McCabe; Fire Marshal Broderick Sawyer; Thomas Reich, Linda Shields, Tina Fogell, 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

a. Special Meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2023

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 19, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING.**

Page 4, under Emergency Management, please replace the following: “residence can shelter” with “residents can shelter”.

Page 5, under **Local 830 Report**, please replace the following:

Congratulation to Peter Karosik on his retirement from the Connecticut Firefighter and to Peter Brown who will be filling the position.

With:

Congratulation to Peter Carozza on his retirement from the Uniformed Professional Firefighter of Connecticut and to Lt. Peter Brown who will be filling the position.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 19, 2023 MEETING AS CORRECTED 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 noted that they were under the projected budget at this time. The budget process is underway. The Capital Budget was reduced by 50% by the CFO. Sick time has been decreasing.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

Assistant Chief Conte presented his report.

- a. Adashi Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) and Command Software Upgrade
 - o Equipment received.
 - o Software build in process.
- b. Station Alerting System Upgrade
 - o System Build in process.
- c. Buildings
 - o Station 3 Apparatus Floor
 - o I attended March 1st meeting for final approval.
 - o Station 5 Roof Replacement
 - o Contract finalized.
 - o Final submittals have been approved by the Architect.
 - o Project scheduling has begun.
 - o OSHA Compliance, deadline is June 12th.
 - o Compliance work over 80% complete

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATION

Assistant Chief McCabe presented his report.

a. Meetings with Norwalk Dispatch have continued in an effort to ensure that each of the city's fire districts is served by sufficient personnel and apparatus for call volume and response time.

b. Norwalk's newest six fire recruits reported to the Connecticut Fire Academy on February 13th. They will graduate on May 24th. Bringing those six and two laterals on shift in May will reduce the Department's vacancies from the current 13 to 5.

c. The seventy-five firefighters who are in need of a new second set of turnout gear, as mandated by OSHA, will all be measured by the end of the month. The gear is expected to be delivered by July.

d. I would like to thank, on record, the Fire Departments of Stamford, New Canaan, Westport, Rowayton, and Fairfield for covering Norwalk's fire stations on Monday, February 13th, so that all Norwalk firefighters could attend the services for Firefighter Craig Saris.

Assistant Chief McCabe also reviewed the number of calls for January 2023. There were 732 incidents, which is a slight increase from January 2022. Discussion followed. Assistant Chief McCabe said he would prepared the data from 2020 and 2021 for next month.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

a. Summary of Activities

b. Fire Reports

c. Fire Marshal Fees

Fire Marshal Sawyer presented his report. He noted that they would be down one full time inspector due to pending surgery. He add that the departments inspections had increased from last year but there were fewer notifications as opposed to last year.

Chief Gatto said that OSHA had tasked the Fire Marshal's Department to provide fire extinguisher training for other departments in the City, which has been completed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

a. Emergency Management Update

Chief Gatto said on February 7th, there was an Active Shooter Recovery Tabletop event in Stratford, which Ms. DeLuca organized. All 14 towns in the area were in attendance. The focus was on recovery. The objectives were to use unified command, the establishing of a unification and family assistance center and the use of municipalities providing resources in the aftermath.

On February 27th, there was a follow up panel discussion for Norwalk staff, including the Police Department, the Health Department, the Fire Department and Norwalk Public Schools.

The Norwalk IT Department has added a link on the Norwalkct.org webpage an Employee SharePoint site where there is a section for Employee safety which has the Building Safety Guide post on it. It will continue to be updated as needed.

TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Deputy Chief Maggio presented his report.

a. Current Activities

1. Wellness Coordinator - Daily Injury Prevention Program
2. EMT / EMR Renewal
3. Recruit Firefighter Training
4. SAFER Grant process -

b. Completed Activities

1. Rapid Intervention Team – High Point Removal (see pictures)
2. Cold Water Rescue retrieval
3. NIOSH Guide research - HAZ-MAT
4. Fire Inspector promotional written exam
5. Deputy Chief promotional written/oral exam

c. Upcoming/Scheduled:

1. PES – Personnel Escape System Training
2. OUPV – Operator of Un-inspected a Passenger Vessel
3. Standpipe Operations
4. General Marine Navigation
5. Engine Company – Pump and Driver Training
6. Ladder Company – Driver/Tiller Training

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

a. See attached

Chief Gatto said that there was an apartment fire on North Water Street. The Department often covers furniture if possible with a salvage cover during a fire and they were able to protect an irreplaceable, hand built, 150 year old piano. Chief Gatto said that the owner was grateful that the Department was able to protect the piano.

PERSONNEL

a. Executive Session:

o Discuss Personnel

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 3:33 P.M. TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Chief Gatto and Ms. Fogell entered into Executive Session at 3:33 p.m. They returned to Public Session at 3:52 p.m. No actions were taken or motions made during Executive Session.

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO SUBJECT TO THE REVIEW OF THE DOCUMENTATION, THE COMMISSION APPROVES THE DISABILITY REQUEST FROM FIREFIGHTER ROOS.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services