

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 21, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: Carol Andreoli; Richard A. Moccia, Mayor;

STAFF: Dennis McCarthy, Fire Chief, Norwalk Fire Department;
Lawrence Reilly, Michael Coffee, Fire Commissioner;
Glenn Iannaccone, Fire Marshall

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Ms. Andreoli, Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: NOVEMBER 16, 2011 MEETING

**** COMMISSIONER COFFEE MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF
THE NOVEMBER 16, 2011 MEETING AS SUBMITTED.
** MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief McCarthy presented the budget reports and stated that everything was on target for the current year and they are anticipating a slight surplus versus the budget. Regarding The 2012-13 budget he stated that following the presentation to the Finance Department, he was asked to come back with recommendation to address the 1.7% over budget. He offered a reduction to eliminate 6-8 positions along with the request for budget line allocated for the administrative position, and in addition they eliminated the lieutenant position and the request for vehicle replacement. He stated that they really need the cars, but he is willing to defer the expense until next year. A discussion ensued regarding possible use of DPW cars, and Mayor Moccia stated that he would speak to Mr. Alvord about usage of the Taurus vehicles that are being used by Code Enforcement.

Mayor Moccia noted that the upcoming year will be again one of the toughest budget years due to the increased health care costs and pension contribution requirements.

FIRE STATION PROJECT REPORT

Chief McCarthy stated that bids are back and are over approximately \$300,000 due to the high prices of steel. Mayor Moccia asked about the low bidder and possibility of renegotiating the steel. Chief McCarthy replied that low bidder is Schenectady, and that the scope review was done to certify the low bidder with the scope of the work.

Chief McCarthy added that bids for the addition to Westport are also over budget and they will

just do the addition only for now and post-pone the further renovation until later in the plans. He added that demolition is scheduled for completion by March and ground-breaking is planned for the first week of April.

Emergency Management

Ms. DeLuca stated that they have met with Sal Iannaccone to set up the accounts for managing the grant in phases for building reimbursement for the EOC project.

She discussed the program at Stepping Stones and stated it was a free family night on Fire Safety with hands on activities and booths manned by volunteers.

Ms. DeLuca stated that they have increased usage of social media for their combined efforts in setting up assistance for fire victims to be able to send messages through their networks. She added that they have been using this also with posting fire safety and prevention tips following the recent serious fires.

Mayor Moccia asked about the storm claims and noted that they are still waiting for FEMA and once that is in repairs to the pier at the beach can begin. He added that he has received compliments that Norwalk has done a superb job with documentation and he wanted to pass this along to Donna. Chief McCarthy added that Emergency Operations has made tremendous progress with response procedures and we are light years ahead of other cities.

Ms. DeLuca added that the hazard mitigation grant program for homeowners is in process and FEMA has narrowed down twenty applications to three. She added that documents are due by March 8, and Mayor Moccia stated that it was important to make this deadline clear to the applicants. He added that Attorney Maslan has this legal template from previous applications, and he can send a letter informing the applicants that these are state deadlines and if they are not met, the application cannot be processed. Chief McCarthy noted that there is a fiduciary requirement to inspect the repairs then forward the bills on to the state.

Assistant Chief Report

Operations Report

Assistant Chief Reilly presented the written report of notable incidents for January, as follows:

- 01.13.12: Norwalk Harbor, Marine 24 assisted PD in retrieving 2 hunters whose boat had capsized off Chimons Island.
- 01.14.12: Route 7 Connector, 3 cars MVA, one of the cars involved rolled over, ejecting one of the occupants. FD treated six people at the scene and assisted EMS.

Operations Report – continued

- 01 .15.12: 29 Ferris Avenue, couch fire in apartment extinguished by firefighters.
43 Fawn Lane, New Canaan, mutual aid, assisted New Canaan Fire Department.

01/18: 83 Ward Street, small fire in basement extinguished by firefighters.
01 /20: East Avenue @ East Wall Street, MVA, FD used Hurst tool to open the passenger side door to remove the operator of the vehicle, who was taken to Norwalk Hospital.
01/22: 15 Dock Road, fire in wall caused by faulty fireplace. FD opened wall, extinguished fire.
01/23: 1-95 northbound, between Exits 13-14, Firefighters extinguished a fully involved car fire.
01/26: 34 Midrocks Drive, EMS, FD administered CPR until EMS arrived.
01.29: Cedar Street, fire in clothes dryer in commercial Laundromat, extinguished by FD.
01 /29: 360 Connecticut Avenue, fire in a closet at a nail salon. Extinguished by FD.
01/30: Midrocks Drive, EMS, FD assisted EMS with CPR.
01/31: 45 Maple Street, apartment fire, ED responded to a fire alarm in the building and discovered on arrival a fire in a fourth floor apartment. Firefighters removed two occupants who were overcome by smoke, extinguished the fire. One of the occupants died after being brought to Norwalk Hospital, the second remains hospitalized.

MAJOR FIRES:

Incident #: 12- 2616 - Location: Date: Jan. 15, 2012 29 Ferris Ave.
Smoke damage throughout to building. Cause: Careless Smoking

Incident #: 12-5378 Date: January 31, 2012. Location: 45 Maple St
Fire damage to bedroom, smoke damage throughout. Careless smoking.

Unit Citations

Mr. Reilly read the unit citation as recommended by Lt. Reardon for the following fire fighters and crew of Engine 4 to be given a unit citation:

Lieutenant Scott Rywolt, Firefighter Richard Lozinak,
Firefighter Craig Saris; Firefighter Michael Fratello

Commissioner Andreoli stated that she was in full agreement as this was a great job, and that the City has a lot to be proud of.

FIRE MARSHALL'S REPORT

Summary of Activities

Fire Marshal Iannaccone presented his report said there were very busy with many 3-6 family houses done, certificate of occupancy inspections and several varied license inspections, some done stemming from complaints, and there were several public education inspections conducted.

Fire Marshall Fee Structure

Fire Marshall Iannaccone stated that the proposed fee structure will be presented at Thursday's Public Safety meeting and public hearing, and will be then forwarded on for approval by the Council in March. He added that there is also discussion on the blight ordinance that is being

proposed.

Training Report

Recruit Training

Chief McCarthy stated that Todd Smith could not be here and he presented his report. He stated that entry level testing will be brought back to South Street when it gets back into operations after DPW completes resurfacing in that area.

Education Comments

Chief McCarthy stated that there is a meeting tomorrow with the Training Captains who have good strong backgrounds to help manage the curriculum and delivery of the program.

Chief McCarthy noted that the ISO rating has moved to a three, which is not a significant change, but prior changes had an impact on resident insurance rates. Commissioner Coffee asked if those rates are reduced automatically, and Chief McCarthy replied that he would suggest residents should contact their insurance carrier to notify them of this change.

UNION PRESIDENT REPORT

The Union President was not present. There was no report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no report.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no report.

PERSONNEL

Chief McCarthy stated that Firefighter Robison retired with disability pension.

Executive Session

- ** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL ITEMS.**
- ** MS. ANDREOLI SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 6:25 p.m.

There was no action taken.

The meeting was reconvened back into Public Session at 6:45 p.m.

Adjournment

**** COMMISSIONER COFFEE MOTIONED TO ADJOURN.
** MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox
Telesco Secretarial Services