

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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

REGULAR MEETING
February 19, 2019

ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Oscar Destruge, Commissioner Larry Bentley

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

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Destruge called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting – January 15, 2019

The following correction was noted:

Page 2, under **FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT**, paragraph 2, line 1: please change the following from "residents than the are allocated." to "residents than are allocated."

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2019.**

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 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 said that there have been no surprises with the budget so far. The department appears to be doing well. He then reviewed the highlights of the report with the Commissioners.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Operations Report

Assistant Chief King reviewed the various categories of fire calls as outlined in his reports for January 2019. He noted that there were slightly fewer calls this January than last January.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

a. Summary of Activities

b. Fire Reports

c. Fire Marshal Fees.

Fire Marshal Sawyer updated the Commissioners on the amount of revenue that the inspections have generated so far this year.

He noted that the shed fire at the beach was definitely arson. The second fire was due to a latrine pump that was accidentally left on and overheated.

Fire Marshal Sawyer then distributed photos of the original Norwalk Fire Safety House trailer that the Department uses along with the updated version with the Kiwanis Club decals in place to the Commissioners.

During the inspection at the Garden Cinema on Isaac Street, the marshal discovered that there was Styrofoam roofing insulation used behind the fire proof wall coverings. This is being removed.

There are still some multiple family residences that have not been inspected. Letters are being sent with Tax Collector's bill so that the Department knows the owners have been notified. If there continues to be no response, the Fire Marshal's Office will apply for warrants.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Emergency Management Update.

Ms. DeLuca reported that the month has been relatively quiet and some training was done with the City Hall employees.

TRAINING REPORT.

a. Company Training Objectives

- **We issued the New Masks and Regulators for all personnel. This goes with the new Scott 4.5 SCBA's that we are putting into service.**

b. We completed EMS Re-Certification Classes for 56 personnel with 100% pass rate.

c. We continued pre-fire Planning for our High-Hazard Occupancies.

d. Held: Train the Trainer Classes for New Paratech Stabilization Struts on Rescue 2. Captain Markowitz, Captain Reardon, Captain Coppola, Firefighter Chimento and Firefighter Cripps will be training the other Fire personnel on that equipment.

Deputy Chief McCallum explained that the struts are frequently used with vehicular accidents when the firefighters have to extract an occupant from a vehicle.

LOCAL 830 REPORT.

Firefighter Ireland said that the St. Patrick's Day T-shirts were now available for purchase. This is a fund raiser, which raises anywhere from \$1,500 to \$2,500.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade is scheduled for March 9, 2019, starting at Veteran's Park and ending at O'Neill's Pub.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Fire Station Project Updates

Chief Gatto reviewed the Repairs and Maintenance Report.

- Station 1 - (Broad River) The Mechanical Engineer should have his equipment selection document ready for review in approximately 2 weeks. The first floor renovation design continues. The architect is re-pricing the design plan. .
- Station 2 - (Connecticut Avenue) In good condition.
- Station 3 – (Van Zant Street) Gathering prices for the proposed design work for the apparatus floor.
- Station 4 - (Westport Avenue) Waiting for the same report as Station One, Choosing tile samples to begin tiling the floor.
- Station 5 – (Meadow Street) Beginning the early planning stages for a bunk room upgrade and also a kitchen upgrade.
- 100 Fairfield - No update.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS.

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Gatto reviewed a letter of appreciation from a member of the public who was assisted by the firefighters following a fall down some stairs. Chief Gatto also received a thank you email from Mr. William Hodel regarding the recent training that the school custodial staff received.

PERSONNEL

Deputy Chief Michael McCallum joined the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) Pension.

The Commissioners signed the appropriate paperwork and expressed their appreciation for Deputy Chief McCallum's continued service.

Discussion of Hiring Additional Personnel.

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Commissioner Destrugge, Commissioner Bentley, Chief Gatto, Assistant Chief King, Deputy Chief McCallum, and Mr. Burney entered into Executive Session at 3:27 p.m. They returned to Public Session at _____ p.m. No motions were made, or votes taken, by the Commission during the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at _____ p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Fire Commission
Regular Meeting
February 19, 2019