

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER OSCAR DESTRUGE
COMMISSIONER CURTIS LANGLEY

SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2016

ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Oscar Destruge, Commissioner Curtis Langley,
Mayor Harry Rilling (3:06 p.m.)

STAFF: Fire Chief Laurence Reilly, Lefty Petridis, Union
President, Deputy Chief Gino Gatto; Deputy Chief
Smith, Deputy Chief A. Bassette

OTHERS: Emmet Hibson, Personnel Director

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Destruge called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting December 15, 2015.

Mayor Rilling joined the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

The following corrections were noted:

Page 2, under **Acting Fire Chief Report**, paragraph 2, please change "Commissioner
Destruge joined to "Commissioner Destruge joined"

Page 3, paragraph 2, line 3, please change: "the residence requirement covers those who
live within 25 miles of the city limits." To: "the bargaining agreement between
the City of Norwalk and the fire union requires all firefighters to live within 25
miles of the City limits."

Page 3, under **Fire Station Renovations**, paragraph 1, line 2, please change "the construction should start in the fall." to " the construction on Broad River, Station 1 should start in the fall."

Page 3, under **Emergency Management**, paragraph 1, line 1: please change "an active shooter at the" to "an active shooter drill at the"

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2015.**

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO IN FAVOR (RILLING AND DESTRUGE) AND ONE ABSTENTION (LANGLEY).**

Mayor Rilling took over as chair.

ACTION ITEMS.

There were no items to consider.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Reilly stated that retired Firefighter Fitzpatrick who was a member of the department from 1963 to 1991 died on January 6, 2016 in South Carolina. Mayor Rilling asked that these types of announcements should be forwarded to the Commissioners promptly with the contact information. Chief Reilly made a note of it.

• Budget Report

Chief Reilly stated that the budget was on track.

• Firefighter Entry Level Exam.

A discussion followed about the issue of residency points. Mr. Hibson said that the availability of residency points were not included in the exam announcements.

The discussion then moved to the issue of having enough HR personnel from other towns available for the exam panels. Mr. Hibson gave a summary of the oral exam schedule. The orals will be given at St. Philip's School.

ASSISTANT CHIEF REPORT

• Operations Report

Assistant Chief Gatto gave a verbal report which included a report on two marine incidents, a house fire, a multiple vehicle fire and another fire at Home Goods.

- **Revision of the Department SOP's**

Regarding Standard Operating Procedures, the department is currently updating the SOP manual.

- **AFG Grant**

Assistant Chief Gatto then gave the Commissioners an update on a Federal grant. The grant funds would be used to purchase thermal imaging cameras at \$11,000 a piece. The current cameras are from 2006 and need to be replaced. Grant funding would cover \$39,000 of the cost and the Department would be responsible for the remaining cost. If the Department does not win the grant funding, then the Department will include these items in the Capital budget next year.

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT

- **Summary of Activities**

Chief Reilly said that the Fire Marshal was out sick. There were 185 inspections done last month.

- **Fire Reports** - No update available.
- **Home Fire Preparedness Campaign** – American Red Cross - No update available.
- **Fire Marshal Fees** - No update available.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- **Emergency Management Update**

Chief Reilly reported that Ms. DeLuca said on-going program for Fire Victims Support was working well. She will also be working with the Housing Authority and the Building Management to integrate the school and city building emergency plans with the Housing Authority.

The EOC was opened up on January 29th for the incoming snow storm.

TRAINING REPORT

- **Annual hazardous materials operational training started at a quarterly training program.**

Deputy Chief Bassette reported that the HazMat Ops were underway. In the future, he hopes to conduct the training quarterly rather than just one session annually.

- **Annual OSHA physicals in progress**

The physicals are in progress.

- **2016 EMS refreshers in progress**

This training is underway, also. Deputy Chief Bassette said that the goal was to have everyone through the training before their expiration dates. The department is trying to do as much in-house training as possible to contain costs.

Commissioner Destruge asked how the snow removal around the fire hydrants program was going. Chief Reilly said it was going well and that usually it takes about five days to get to every hydrant cleared depending on the amount of snow because there's about 1,650 hydrants. Mayor Rilling said that he had included the request for the residents to shovel out the hydrants in his Code Red message. Discussion followed.

UNION PRESIDENT REPORT.

There were no items to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS.

There was no old business to consider at this time.

NEW BUSINESS.

There was no new business consider at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE.

There were no items to consider at this time.

PERSONNEL

- **Executive Session to discuss:**

Contract Proposal – Chief Reilly and Assistant Chief Gatto.

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Chief Reilly and Assistant Chief Gatto entered into Executive Session at 3:45 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. They returned to public session at 3:55 p.m. No actions or votes were taken during the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

**** COMMISSIONER LANGLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services