

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
JANUARY 26, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Richard A. Moccia; Chairman Carol Andreoli;  
Commissioner Michael Coffey (5:10 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Fire Chief Denis McCarthy; Assistant Chief Lawrence Reilly;  
Deputy Chief Prescott

**OTHER:** Michelle DeLuca, Emergency Management Deputy Chief

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Andreoli called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

a. Regular Meeting December 15, 2009

The correction to the minutes of the December 15, 2009 is as follows:

On page 1, change "UNION PRESIDENT REPORT" to "UNION VICE PRESIDENT REPORT".

**\*\* MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2009.**

**\*\* CHAIRMAN ANDREOLI SECONDED.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ACTION ITEMS**

There are no action items.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT**

a. 09/10 Budget Report

Chief McCarthy said the Department is in good shape for salaries and overtime. They are within budget for sick leave and overtime. He met with the Union and the Assistant Chief met in November and changed some of the practices and policies. He said it is not a year to stress the budget, and they will be within budget, barring any catastrophes, between now and July 1, 2010.

b. 10/11 Budget Report

Chief McCarthy said the 2010/2011 budget has been submitted and it is essentially two/tenths of

1%. He did include the inspector's position that was previously cut, but it has to go to arbitration, and he is awaiting word on the outcome. He said that during the budget review, he stressed the importance of filling the secretary position, because it is very difficult for 5 personnel to operate without secretarial support. He said they downgraded the position. He said he had requested the position to be part-time, at 20 hours a week, but it was not warranted due to the hiring freeze.

c. Fire Station Project Report

Chief McCarthy said once they determined the appraised value of the property across the street at \$5.5M, then coupled with the deed restriction on the existing property, which doesn't allow them to sell the property to offset the property acquisition, it was mutually decided that it would drive the cost of the project up to about \$20M. They had originally thought they would net out at about \$15M after purchasing property and selling the existing property.

Commissioner Coffey arrived at 5:10 p.m.

Chief McCarthy said they went back to the drawing board. He contacted the architect that they had been working with, who has received Fire Station Design Awards in the past. He said the architect, in response to questions about the most prudent use of City dollars for demolishing and rebuilding on the existing site, came back with a budget that he provided to the Commissioners. He expects to have drawings later this week. If they go to three stories and they get the waiver for the zoning setbacks, the architect said they would be satisfied with the product. He submitted a budget for \$1.6M for design and demolition for 2010/2011 and \$12.4M for construction for 2011/2012. That is part of the Department's request to the City. The Finance Director's recommendation is due out on Monday. The deed restriction on the existing property states that it is to be used only as a Fire Station. Chief McCarthy said large purchases for apparatus, etc., were spaced accordingly every other year in the budget so as to not bunch up.

### **ASSISTANT CHIEF REPORT**

a. Operations Report

Assistant Chief Larry Reilly said the major fire last month was the natural gas explosion in a single family house at 65 Ohio Avenue Extension. The explosion blew out the front of the house and burned the back half of the house. Due to the gas still leaking, they had to let the house burn down. Three occupants of the home were not seriously injured.

There were a number of CPR calls.

The new Engine 2 at Station 2 is in service, as well as the new Rescue Truck at Station 2. Bids are open for the new aerial ladder truck. It is being awarded to KME in Pennsylvania. It should be ordered soon, and it should take approximately one year. The Department is receiving a \$17,000 pre-payment reduction on this, so the cost is brought down from \$854,000.

They have met with the neighbors at Ohio Avenue Extension about gas odors. Another gas main leak was reported today. All of the mechanical joints are being sealed by the gas company, and

it was proposed that the entire main be replaced on Ohio Avenue Extension, Fairfield, and Minerva in the spring. It was suggested that they recognize the neighbor who rescued the three occupants of 65 Ohio Avenue Extension at the March meeting, as well as some Unit Citations for firefighters who acted in the drowning last spring, and a car accident.

### **FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE**

#### **a. Summary of Activities**

Fire Marshal Glenn Iannaccone was not present, but Assistant Chief Reilly said the natural gas explosion at 65 Ohio Avenue Extension was the activity from last month.

#### **b. Fire Reports**

There was no report.

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

#### **a. 2010 Program Calendar**

Emergency Management Director Michelle DeLuca said they received numerous donations for the family displaced from the 65 Ohio Avenue Extension fire, and they continue to work with the family. She said that the family has donated some checks, that were made out to the Fire Department, back to the Fire Victims Fund. She said they collected approximately \$12,000 for the family in the form of checks and gift cards. A Fire Victims Fund was recently set up, and they continue to receive donations in order to assist families who are affected by fires.

She said that she is working with the Haitian-American Society to coordinate efforts for the earthquake victims in Haiti.

She said they met with approximately 50 different agencies this morning regarding special needs and disaster planning. She said she was pleased with the turnout from the agencies, including people representing the hard-of-hearing community and disability advocates.

### **TRAINING REPORT**

#### **a. Recruit Training**

Deputy Chief Prescott read from his submitted report. He said they conducted a hydrant demonstration, and a videotape was made so that it could be sent out to personnel as training material. A cleaning company was hired to clean up the fire training tower. Shutters and latches and a new door were installed.

Four new recruits that will be attending the State Fire Academy went in for physicals in December. They will be at the Fire House February 3, 4, and 5<sup>th</sup> for orientation. They will graduate May 19, 2010. On January 7, they started MRT and EMT recertification classes. They had about 63 personnel attend, and about 17 more are scheduled for the end of April. They have

plans to incorporate CPR recertification. The State Fire Academy started ice rescue training recently. Daily training continues on the Standard Operating Procedures.

b. Educational comments

**UNION PRESIDENT REPORT**

The Union President was not present, and there was no report submitted. Deputy Chief Prescott mentioned that the Fire Union donated 100 turkeys prior to Thanksgiving, with 70 given to St. Thomas Church and 30 given to the Carver Foundation.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There are no items.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There are no items.

**PERSONNEL**

There are no items.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COFFEY SECONDED.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marr  
Telesco Secretarial Services