

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER/PASTOR OSCAR DESTRUGE

SPECIAL MEETING

January 19, 2023

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Tele Conference

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Oscar Destruge

STAFF: Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Assistant Chief Mark Conte; Michele DeLuca,
Emergency Management, Deputy Chief Jonathan Maggio;
Assistant Chief Edward McCabe; Fire Marshal Broderick Sawyer;
Linda Shields

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

• December 20, 2022 Regular Meeting

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 20, 2022 MEETING.**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 3, under **Training Division**, paragraph 1, line 1: please change “Captain DeMaggio” to “Deputy Chief Maggio” in all occurrences.

Page 3, last paragraph, 2nd sentence: please change the following from:

“There has been an increase in the EMS calls due to the fact that the Priority One unit carries a number of medical injectables including insulin, epinephrine and naloxone.”

“There has been an increase in the EMS calls due to the number of Priority One and

Priority Two calls that the Fire Department has been dispatched to.”

Page 5, under **Personnel Executive Session**: Please change “They returned to Public Session at ____.” To: “They returned to Public Session at 3:58 p.m.”

Page 5, under **Adjournment**, please change the following from: “The meeting adjourned at ____.” To: The meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2022 MEETING AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

There are no items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

• Budget Report

Chief Gatto said that there was a Capital Improvement Project involving the electrical upgrades and some OSHA violations at the garage on Fairfield Avenue that he would like to withdraw item from the list of Capital Improvement Project. The OSHA violations will be paid for by Craig Schmidt and the replacement of the old lights will be a partnership with SNEW. He explained that the amount will be reduced by 50% and monthly payments will be made on the balance. This will result in significant savings in electric usage.

The Department is now six months into their operation budget. December was a five week month, so the numbers will appear to be high.

Chief Gatto reviewed the current vacancies and stated that they would have 11 vacancies. Discussion followed about the over time that the vacancies will require.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

Assistant Chief Conte presented his report.

- Adashi Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) and Command Software Upgrade Equipment ordered.
- Software build in process.
- Station Alerting System Upgrade
- System Build in process.
- Buildings

Station 3 Apparatus Floor

Cost Analysis submitted to Third Taxing District.

Assistant Chief Conte will be attending their Board meeting 01/23 for a final ruling.

OSHA Compliance

Compliance work in process.

Station 5 Renovations

Waiting on the weather to start work.

Mayor Rilling noted that OSHA had not visited the Department during the last 30 years and the violations that had been cited were minor. He suggested that they consider having yearly inspections to insure compliance.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

Assistant Chief McCabe presented his report.

Two bids were received for the department's next pumpers. The specifications and pricing are being reviewed.

On January 3rd, Norwalk Fire Department sent an engine company with four personnel to North Haven to assist with fire station coverage and funeral ceremonies for Firefighter Matthias Wirtz. Firefighter Wirtz died in the line of duty fighting a structure fire on December 26th.

All residential wood frame high-rise dwellings in the city have been designated a full assignment response for all alarms.

In the past 30 days, the department has responded to 8 fires involving structures, including a large exterior shed on Christmas morning and a 3-alarm house fire on Betmarlea Rd on January 8th.

In addition, there was an additional house fire on Chestnut Hill Road on January 18th.

Mayor Rilling asked if the increase in fires were related to holiday decorations. Assistant Chief McCabe said that they felt these fires did not involve holiday decorations, but might involve wood burning stoves and such.

Commissioner Destruge asked for clarification on the "full assignment response for all alarms", which Assistant Chief McCabe reviewed the response levels with him. A full assignment will involve two engines, rescue unit and the Fire Chief and would involve larger structures with multiple entries.

Assistant Chief McCabe also reviewed the December calls which included 802 incidents with an average of 26 per day. There were 19 fires, 21 rescues and 479 medical emergency calls. There were also 41 service calls, many of which were due to the heavy rains on December 23rd. There has been an increase of 913 incidents from 2021. He mentioned the possibility of moving a company to Station 4, which has seen an increase in incidents and has been under discussion for some time.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Summary of Activities

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Fire Reports
Fire Marshal Fees

Fire Marshal Sawyer explained that some of the fires were still under investigation and other fires were due to bad cooks. There were no candles or decorations involved. He went on to review the number of inspections and notification letters that were sent out. OSHA training with the Police Department and DPW has been scheduled for the 20th.

Fire Marshal Sawyer then updated the Commissioners on the number of liquor licenses, plan reviews, code reviews and fire investigations that the department was doing.

TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Deputy Chief Maggio presented his report.

Current Training Activities

Engine Company – Pump and Driver Training
Ladder Company – Driver/Tiller Training
Wellness Coordinator - Daily Injury Prevention Program
General Marine Navigation
EMT / EMR Renewal

Completed Training

Automatic Sprinkler Systems (see pictures #1 & #2)
Company Led Training
Nutritionist / Healthy habits

Upcoming/Scheduled:

Rapid Intervention Team – Upper Floor Window Removal
PES – Personnel Escape System Training
OUPV – Operator of Un-inspected a Passenger Vessel
Standpipe Operations
Recruit Firefighter Training

Mayor Rilling said that the City will be offering Spanish courses for employees. He encouraged the firefighters to enroll in the courses.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

• Emergency Management Update

Ms. DeLuca said that there was a storm just before Christmas and there were some flooding issues. There were some outages with the Housing Authority and Ms. DeLuca spoke with the power company to identify some spaces where residence can shelter overnight.

Ms. DeLuca said that the ice scrappers arrived and have been distributed with a flyer about winter safety.

On February 7th there will be a table top exercise regarding active shooters in community based locations like grocery stores, community centers or events such as a parade or graduation.

LOCAL 830 REPORT

There were no items to consider at this time.

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

OLD BUSINESS

• OSHA Update

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items to consider at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items to consider at this time.

PERSONNEL

• Executive Session:

Discuss Personnel

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners and Chief Gatto entered into Executive Session at 3:36 p.m. to discuss Personnel issues. They returned to Public Session at 4:08 p.m. No actions were taken or motions made during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUCE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

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