CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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

REGULAR MEETING
January 15, 2019

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair;, Commissioner Larry Bentley
Commissioner Oscar Destruge (3:04 p.m.)

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting – December 18, 2018

The following corrections were noted:

Page 2, under **PERSONNEL**, following "and reconvened into Public Session at 4:18 p.m." please add "No motions were made, or votes taken, by the Commission in Executive Session."

Page 3, under **EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SALARY INCREASES FOR AC KING AND CHIEF GATTO**, following "and reconvened into Public Session at 4:18 p.m." please add "No motions were made, or votes taken, by the Commission in Executive Session."

**** COMMISSIONER BENTLEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2018.**
**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2018 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 is 7 months into the budget year and that the department looks like it is doing well. He then reviewed the highlights with the Commissioners.

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Operations Report

Commissioner Destruge joined the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

Assistant Chief King reviewed the various categories of fire calls as outlined in his reports for December 2018. (See attached)

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

a. Summary of Activities
b. Fire Reports
c. Fire Marshal Fees.

Fire Marshal Sawyer presented his report to the Commissioners. He said that they were doing well with the residential inspections. He distributed copies of a list of Non-Compliant Multi-Family Occupancies. (See attached)

Mayor Rilling asked if there were instances where there are more residents than the are allocated. Fire Marshal Sawyer said that there were some single family dwellings that had issues. However, the Fire Department must work with the Health Department on those.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Emergency Management Update.

Ms. DeLuca updated the Commissioners on the assistance provided to the Christmas Eve/Christmas Day fire victims.

TRAINING REPORT.

a. Company Training Objectives

- **We continued training for our new Scott 4.5 SCBA that we are putting into service**
- **All the equipment is now logged in firehouse software to help track maintenance and repairs.**

Deputy Chief McCallum reviewed the recent status of the equipment and updated everyone on the number of masks and other gear available. Now the masks will be turned in and re-issued. Deputy Chief McCallum reviewed the protocol for the packs and this will be tracked via the Fire Department computer software. Deputy Chief McCallum noted that Deputy Chief Bassett should receive credit for this upgrade.

b. The EMS Re-certification Classes have started here in the EOC.

Deputy Chief McCallum announced that approximately 1/3 of the firefighters are currently involved in the re-certification.

LOCAL 830 REPORT.

There were no items to discuss at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

a. **Fire Station Project Updates**

Capt. Hines said that Station 1 firefighters were working on dry wall. He said that the boilers are 50 years old and need to be replaced. Bids should go out in spring.

- Station 1 - The ceiling and lights have been replaced.
- Station 2 - In good condition.
- Station 3 - The engineers are working on the plans for the floor. There will be a meeting with the rate payers in March.
- Station 4 - The ceiling and painting has been completed. The floor needs to be replaced. The heating needs to be replaced.
- Station 5 – The building will need a new roof. It is 20 years past its life expectancy.
- 100 Fairfield - The roof work continues.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no new items to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS.

Introduction of the New Fire Chaplins

Chief Gatto introduced Rev. Paul Sankar, from St. Thomas The Apostle Church, to the Commissioners as one of the new Fire Department Chaplins. Mayor Rilling administered the Oath of Office to Rev. Sankar and welcomed him to the Department.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Gatto reviewed two letters of appreciation from members of the public who were assisted by the firefighters during two separate incidents. (See attached)

PERSONNEL

a. Discussion of Hiring Additional Personnel.

Chief Gatto said that the department was trying to be pro-active because there will be 19 vacancies by Jan 2023. Some of those vacancies will come sooner rather than later. Now is the time to start interviewing candidates. Currently there are seven vacancies. Normally, they have about six vacancies. The discussion moved to considering the names on the current list, which is three years old. Mayor Rilling asked Chief Gatto to email him with the information. Discussion followed

Mr. Burney said that it would be better to start putting together a testing program and compiling a new list. Deputy Chief McCallum said that he agreed with Mr. Burney. He also suggested that the five names that had already been through the process and they should consider putting those five names in the next class.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER DESTRUGE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services