

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
COMMISSIONER OSCAR DESTRUGE
COMMISSIONER CURTIS LANGLEY

REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2017

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Chair; Commissioner Curtis Langley;
Commissioner Oscar Destruge (3:11 p.m.)

STAFF: Assistant Fire Chief Gino Gatto; Deputy Chief Al Basset; Deputy
Fire Marshal Kirk McDonald; Captain James Hines;
Michele DeLuca, Deputy Director of Emergency Management;
Lefty Petrides, Local 830 President

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting September 19, 2017.

**** COMMISSIONER LANGLEY MOVED THE MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2017
AS CORRECTED.**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 4, under Firehouse software, paragraph 1, line 2: please change the following from
"He said that there are working" to "He said that they are working"

Page 4, Public Safety: please change "Public Safety" to "Public Safety Cadets"

Page 5, under Old Business - Fire Station Update, paragraph 1, line 6: please change "He
said that is also working" to "He said that they are also working"

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT.

There was no report at this time.

ACTING FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Budget Report -- Acting Chief Gatto said that there was nothing of note in the financial accounts and the budget appears to be progressing normally.

b. Operations - Acting Chief Gatto reviewed the details of the Operations report included in the information packet. There were two mutual aid responses, one from Westport and one from New Canaan. Mayor Rilling said that he had just received a letter from the First Selectman of Westport expressing his thanks for the assistance that the Fire Department rendered on September 16th.

Commissioner Destruge joined the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

a. Summary of Activities

b. Fire Reports

Deputy Fire Marshal McDonald presented the statistics for August and September.

Deputy Fire Marshal McDonald said that the majority of the day to day work is focused on commercial structures or business. There is a backlog for the residential inspections.

Acting Chief Gatto said that following the last meeting, the department reached out to two individuals, who are completely certified. One is from Greenwich and one from Westport. These new inspectors will only work 19.5 hours each. One of the new inspectors started today and the second one will start next week. Mayor Rilling asked if there was a list of all the mandatory inspections. Deputy Fire Marshal McDonald said that Fire Marshal Sawyer had left him a list of multi-families that require inspections.

c. Fire Marshal Fees.

Deputy Fire Marshal McDonald then reviewed the income for the month with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Langley asked about the selection process for the part time Fire Marshals. Acting Chief Gatto said that there were 11 applicants and the Department narrowed it down to three candidates. Two candidates were hired to fill the vacant positions. The Inspectors will be attending school and will be doing residential inspections when they are not in school. Once they finish their courses, they will be certified for Fire Investigations. A discussion followed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Emergency Management Update.

Ms. DeLuca said she was involved with weekly conference calls with the State regarding the Puerto Rican evacuees. Norwalk has either 6 or 8 units for families. Bridgeport has seen an increase of 20 or 30 students while Stamford has not seen an increase. There may be a need for winter clothing and school supplies. Ms. DeLuca said that the Department is part of the Food, Fuel and Shelter Network.

Commissioner Destruge asked if there was a list of host families. Ms. DeLuca said that most of the current evacuees already had places to stay. However, many of the evacuees arrive with very few supplies. They do not have winter clothes. The school system is working on providing school supplies, but gift cards for these items would be appreciated. Mayor Rilling suggested that she check with Person to Person for coats and other supplies. A brief discussion regarding the details followed.

Ms. DeLuca then spoke about details regarding permits regarding health and safety issues. Ms. DeLuca said that there needs to be a bit more coordination regarding the closing of road due to the marathon. She reported that apparently there was street work permitted for Wall Street and then the marathon was also permitted to be in that area. She said that she would be working on coordinating the various permits to make things run more smoothly.

Mayor Rilling said that he had received a complaint from a resident in the last stage of pregnancy who could not get to her home because her road was closed was forced to park elsewhere and had to walk about a half mile to her home.

TRAINING REPORT.

a. Company Training

- SCBA - Deputy Chief Basset reviewed the details of the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus training that was recently held.

b. Department Training

- Drug Paraphernalia Awareness
- Acquired Structures - The department was able to use a portion of Loehmann's Plaza for training purposes before demolition began.

c. Public Safety Cadets

- Assisted at the Boat Show and Open House
- Tower Ladder Operations

d. Firefighter Edward Maher has obtained his CPR instructor

Mayor Rilling asked if the department had received any informational materials regarding First Responders exposure to opiates. Deputy Chief Basset said that they were getting information from the DEA and IAB International. Mayor Rilling said that there were reports of an increase of first responders being exposed to powder either in the air or on furniture when responding to potential overdose. Acting Chief Gatto said that there was a protocol in place. So far, there have been no exposures at the department. Deputy Chief Basset agreed and said that the trucks carry separate doses of Narcan for the fire fighters who may be exposed. The fire fighters also wear gloves when responding to these calls.

Deputy Chief Basset then gave a brief report about the annual awards ceremony for the cadets, which had been held the previous night. This was the first year when there was a 50 hours of Fire Service award being presented.

Commissioner Langley asked what the protocol would be if a firefighter was exposed to opiates. Acting Chief Gatto said that if a firefighter started to feel the effects of the opiates, Narcan is available in the trucks for them. The affected firefighter would then be transported to the nearest hospital for treatment. A brief discussion followed about the identification of the opiates and how the firefighters administer Narcan.

LOCAL 830 REPORT.

There were no items to consider.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Fire Station Project Updates

Captain Hines said that there were a number of projects ready to go, but there was a budget freeze in effect. The price for the engineering work for Station 1 at Broad River has been received and negotiations about the scope of the work are underway.

Captain Hines said with the extra grant money, they are looking to purchase smaller commercial washers and dryer for the fire fighters turn out gear for the smaller stations on Westport Avenue, South Norwalk and . While the smaller commercial washers will only handle one set of gear at a time, they do not require more than a 110 AC power. Broad River and Connecticut Avenue have larger washers that can handle multiple sets turn out gear at one time.

Acting Chief Gatto explained that the funding for the washing machines came from a grant that had been allocated for thermal cameras. While the grant funding was in process, the cost of the cameras came down, so the remaining funds are being used to purchase the washers and driers.

The discussion moved to the availability of the funds that were bonded for the firehouse renovations. Mayor Rilling explained that the Capital Budget was not actually included in the budget freeze since those funds were already allocated. He went on to speak about the suggested State tax revenue increases that are currently under discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no additional business to discuss at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no additional correspondence to discuss at this time.

PERSONNEL

a. Update on Part-Time Inspectors for Fire Prevention Bureau

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Fire Commission
Regular Meeting
October 18, 2017