

Town of North Branford
Board of Fire Commissioners
North Branford, CT 06471

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING, COMPANY #2 FIREHOUSE

JANUARY 13, 2005

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL: Chairman Joseph Civitello, Vice-Chairman Angelo Tosi, Commissioners Donald LaBanca, and Joseph Tulli. Commissioner Patricia Nagot was absent.

OTHERS: Officers: Interim Chief Anthony Esposito, Jr., Fire Inspectors John O'Brien and John Zulawski, Captains Laura Burich, John Florio, Ken Neubig, and John Onofrio, Lieutenants Tom Hart, Joseph Manzi, Henry Rak and John Rossotto, Foreman Mark Candelli. **OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:** Council liaison Andrew Esposito, William Seward.

APPOINTMENT OF FIRE CHIEF: Vice-Chairman Tosi made the following motion that was seconded by Commissioner LaBanca: Based upon the recommendation of the Board of Fire Commissioner's Personnel Search Committee, the Board appoints William Seward of North Branford as the Fire Chief for a three year term effective January 14, 2005 to January 14, 2008. On roll call vote, all in favor. The new Fire Chief was then introduced to the Board and those present.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION RE: FIRE/AMBULANCE/CAPITAL ITEMS BUDGET FOR 2005-2006: Interim Chief Esposito explained that although the Board suggested an increase of 4% overall, he received notice from the Town Manager that the budgets should be increased by only 3%. The Operating Budget for the Fire Department shows a 3% increase except for the stipend amount which would be \$1000 per the 5 year phase-in plan. The total increase with the stipend amount would be 9.38%. The rents were increased by 3% and the salaries by 2%. He is still trying to coordinate the purchase of gas for Company #1 with the Town. The Board then discussed the issue of the Knox Box of which there are approximately 20 installed in Town. Interim Chief Esposito suggested the Board approach the Council regarding an ordinance for the Knox Box. It is a secure vault in the truck and can be activated by a tone from the Police Department. He also mentioned that the Opticom feature will be installed on the light at Twin Lakes Road and Rt. 139. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tulli, to accept the proposed Operating Budget for the Fire Department for the year 2005-2006. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Capital Items were then discussed consisting of a) communications system upgrade, b) communication hardware (mobiles, pagers, portables) and c) Fire Equipment Reserve. Commissioner LaBanca made a motion to accept the three Capital budget items for the Fire Department as presented. Vice-Chairman Tosi seconded the motion and on roll call vote, all in favor. The Ambulance budget was then discussed and Interim Chief Esposito suggested an increase from \$20 to \$25 in the pay per call for ambulance personnel. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner LaBanca to increase the pay per call from \$20 to \$25 with two volunteers per call for the ambulance effective July 1, 2005. On roll call vote, all in favor. After some discussion, Commissioner LaBanca made a motion to approve the Ambulance Budget as amended by the increase in the pay per call from \$20 to \$25 and Commissioner Tulli seconded. On roll call vote, all in favor.

All were invited to remain after the meeting for a welcome reception for the newly-appointed Chief William Seward.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Tosi and seconded by Commissioner Tulli to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Chairman Civitello thanked Interim Chief Esposito for all his efforts during the past 18 months and he received a round of applause from those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk