

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

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #3 FIREHOUSE**

**FEBRUARY 12, 2004**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Civitello at 7:37 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

**OTHERS:** Officers: Interim Chief Anthony Esposito, Jr., District Chief Mark Amatrudo, Captains Laura Burich, John Florio, and John Onofrio and Lieutenants Robert Colangelo, Thomas Rak and David Roden, Foreman Peter Stadolnik and Fire Inspectors John O'Brien and John Zulawski.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** Captain Onofrio noted that Company #3 will be involved with a ziti dinner in the fall for "Make A Wish" Foundation and he will contact the other captains to see if they want to participate. Commissioner LaBanca praised the quick and efficient response of the department regarding a water issue at Smith Library.

**READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Tosi and seconded by Commissioner Tulli to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 8, 2004. On roll call vote, three in favor and one abstention by Commissioner LaBanca as he was absent.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS:** The Fire Marshal's Reports for January were distributed at the meeting and it was noted that there were 126 calls. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion to accept the Fire Marshal's report for January, 2004 which was seconded by Commissioner LaBanca. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Pension: Vice-Chairman Tosi wanted to inform the department about the status of the letter received from John Conway. The cost of an annuity or other compensation for a member who has achieved 5 years of credited service and isn't vested is being considered and it may take some time to get some answers. Transportation: Chairman Civitello felt that the Board should get together for one night to inspect the trucks at several firehouses. They will discuss scheduling a convenient date after the meeting.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF:** Interim Chief Esposito distributed a memorandum to the Board regarding the Chief's Report. It is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. He informed the Board that Company #4 has moved to its new quarters. He noted that five bids were received for the Ambulance staffing services. The lowest bidder was Squad Medics, a startup company. It doesn't have a track record for 24/7 coverage and the Subcommittee was hesitant to make their first contract such a large scale project. The Ambulance Subcommittee will recommend to the Town Council that they award the contract to VinTech to begin on March 15<sup>th</sup>. A list is being compiled of all the MRT/EMT's interested in working for VinTech. The Town Council extended AMR's contract until mid-March. He noted a Planning and Zoning review regarding a three-lot subdivision, all with interior lots. The mutual aid agreement with Wallingford has begun. The lease on the Montgomery Village tanker is being delayed until possibly May and there may be some changes with the lease. Training will begin at 292 Branford Road in April and at Augur's by the end of March. There are currently 6 members in the Fire Fighter I

class and MRT and EMT classes are also being held. Interim Chief Esposito noted that there were some significant calls. During the weekend of January 10 – 11<sup>th</sup>, the Department assisted in a search detail during the extreme cold temperatures and made an excellent stop at a structure fire in Northford the following day. He noted that the American Red Cross representative was on scene and provided housing, food and clothing certificates to the residents. Billing for fire/rescue/hazmat services was discussed and information was distributed to the Board. Fit testing and the feasibility of renting Interspiro equipment from Branford on an annual basis were discussed. The Board was notified that the oil/water separators must be registered with the State at a cost of \$250 per location if it meets their criteria and the cost would be \$500 per location for a ten-year license if it doesn't meet the DEP criteria. Interim Chief Esposito informed the Board about the overdue ambulance bills and noted that \$24,000 had to be written off as uncollectible. On May 8 the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation will have a gala event and would like to auction off a day with a fireman. He discussed the issue with the Risk Manager and there will be no additional liability if someone chooses to participate. On March 9<sup>th</sup>, District Chief Mark Amatrudo and Interim Chief Esposito will attend a seminar on writing grant applications. The "Relay for Life" event which was discussed is a 24-hour event at the high school track on June 5-6<sup>th</sup> to raise funds for the Cancer Society. Company #4 may provide the dunk tank during the weekend. Commissioner Tulli stated that he would like to see the department support this event. The Kickoff meeting will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup> at the River Run Restaurant.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Fire Department budget for 2004-2005 was discussed and it was noted that it is a 2% increase in rents and salaries, with the exception of the fire inspectors. The data line at Company #1 will be converted to DSL. Capital Improvement Requests were discussed and the bid for the first phase of the diesel exhaust system will be put through now and the Capital Request is the next phase. A communications upgrade of \$50,000 will replace some outdated equipment. There was a necessary increase in the ambulance budget and Ambulance 44 may need to be replaced as it has 140,000 miles. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaBanca to accept the Fire Department budget as presented. On roll call vote, all in favor. Commissioner LaBanca made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Tosi to accept the Capital Improvements and Equipment Reserves for the Fire Department. On roll call vote, all in favor. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaBanca to accept the Ambulance Budget as presented. On roll call vote, all in favor. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaBanca to approve the Equipment Reserves for the Ambulance. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** Captain Florio would like to know when the repairs to the generator at Company #1 would be completed. Interim Chief Esposito will check into it as he wasn't aware that it wasn't finished. Captain Florio also would like to have information on gas prices for Company #1.

**WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION:** The implementation of the new ambulance contract by March 15<sup>th</sup> will be discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Tosi and seconded by Commissioner Tulli to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen  
Board Clerk

