

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

North Branford, CT 06471

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #4 FIREHOUSE

MARCH 11, 2004

An Open House was held from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the new Company #4 building prior to the Board Meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Civitello at 7:38 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

OTHERS: Officers: Interim Chief Anthony Esposito, Jr., District Chief Mark Amatrudo, Captains Laura Burich and John Onofrio, Lieutenant Joseph Manzi and Fire Inspector John O'Brien.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Onofrio requested approval from the Board to schedule a car show fundraiser for Company #3 (previously known as the DARE Car Show). There were no objections from the Board. Interim Chief Esposito presented a 10-year award plaque to Daniel Potter for ambulance service.

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 February 12, 2004. On roll call vote, four in favor and one abstention by Commissioner Nagot as she was absent.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: Two letters were read into the minutes. One letter was from Pam Gery at the Community Center offering a 30% discount on individual memberships for any volunteer firefighters. Denise Loeb, Special Events Coordinator for Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, wrote to thank the Department for agreeing to participate in the May 8th fundraiser to Donate A Day with A Fireman.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Reports for February were distributed at the meeting and it was noted that there were 112 calls. It was noted that the fire inspectors were working on a daily basis doing inspections. The Board appreciated the time spent by the inspectors.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Pension: Vice-Chairman Tosi wanted to update the department about the status of the letter received from John Conway. The Pension Committee is checking on different options. Purchasing and Budget: Chairman Civitello met with Town Manager Karl Kilduff regarding the budget. Some minor deductions were made by the Town Manager and the revised budgets will be mailed to the Board. Ambulance: VinTech will take over the ambulance service at midnight on Sunday. Many of the volunteers are interested in signing up for shifts on Ambulance #44. It was noted that the volunteers must stay in the building if they are on a shift.

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 noted that keys for the new Commissioner's Office at the Ambulance Building will be distributed after the meeting. The swipe key cards for the building will be available soon. Interim Chief Esposito is negotiating with the former landlord over several issues at the former ambulance building. The monthly recap for January and February regarding the Ambulance was discussed. A planning and zoning review for the house next to Doody's Totoket Inn was discussed. There have been several mutual aid calls to North Haven for brush fires. Training for the remaining dispatchers will be completed in April and the EMD protocols will then be implemented. District Chief Amatrudo and Interim Chief Esposito attended a grant workshop and the deadline to apply for a grant

is April 2nd. Much work was done by Captain Burich and David Burich for the State inspection of the ambulance for the EMS license. Barry Turner at Public Works was helpful in the preparation of the vehicles for the DMV portion of the license process. The generator at Company 1 has been working since the new transfer switch was installed (contrary to comments at the prior meeting) and they have received a lesson on how to use it. Activation and arrival on scene for the ambulance was discussed in further detail and the Chairman questioned whether or not standards should be set in writing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The issue of billing for fire/rescue/hazmat services has been tabled indefinitely. At this time, the Board did not wish to implement the billing. Commissioner LaBanca made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Nagot to add Commissioner Tulli and Town Manager Karl Kilduff to the Personnel Search Committee for the new Fire Chief. On roll call vote, four in favor and one abstention by Commissioner Tulli. Commissioner Tulli updated the Board on the Relay for Life to take place the first weekend in June. He attended the meeting on February 24th with approximately 150 interested citizens. He stated that he would like to be the Team Captain for the Fire Department. The theme of the event is movies and he would like to get a fire-related movie for that weekend. He will contact the Companies to formulate a team of approximately 15-20 people to collect money and participate in the event. Interim Chief Esposito stated that they would like EMT coverage from 10:00 a.m. Saturday to 10:00 a.m. Sunday. If possible, some volunteers would be needed to staff the ambulance for that event.

NEW BUSINESS: There was a discussion about the EMT Training for high school students. David Burich stated that we need an active Explorer Post and possibly form an EMS Club at the high school. He would hope to get the Board of Education involved. The concept was agreeable to the Board and it was thought that they could recruit new members through this process.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Onofrio informed the Board that there is an active and organized Explorer Post at Company #3 with approximately 6-7 people who meet every other Wednesday. They have Post advisors and it goes through the CT Yankee Council for insurance purposes. Fire Inspector O'Brien informed the Board that Company #1 was currently meeting but he wanted to mention that there would possibly be an Easter Flower sale and a car wash at the same time on Easter weekend. The Board gave its approval for the two fundraisers. David Burich felt that there would be too many limitations on the high school EMS training if it has to go along with the Boy Scouts. It would be a 140 to 160 hour course and if it is discussed at the April meeting, it could get put on the agenda for the Board of Education during April. It was mentioned that the Office of Homeland Security will provide training and a kit but there must be 100% commitment to use it. All EMT, fireman and police officers must be trained prior to receiving the first kit. There would be no charge to the Town for this service.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: The budget will be discussed and a meeting should be scheduled for the Personnel Search Committee. There is a public hearing on April 6th for the budget and the Council sessions will be April 12, 13, and 14. The specifications for a new ambulance will be discussed at the next meeting since there are mechanical problems with the current vehicles. Chairman Civitello stated that he would like to be in attendance with Interim Chief Esposito, Mayor Doody and Barry from Public Works at any meetings regarding discussions for an ambulance.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner LaBanca and seconded by Vice-Chairman Tosi to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk