

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

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #1 FIREHOUSE

APRIL 1, 2004

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Civitello at 7:35 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

OTHERS: Officers: Interim Chief Anthony Esposito, Jr., District Chief Mark Amatrudo, Captains Ken Neubig and John Onofrio and Foreman Henry Rak. **OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:** Council liaison Andrew Esposito.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: David Burich renewed his request that the Board form a permanent membership committee.

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 March 11, 2004. On roll call vote, all in favor.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Reports for March were distributed at the meeting and it was noted that there were 109 calls.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Insurance: Vice-Chairman Tosi informed the Board that a life insurance company was contacted and they are getting some pricing information for various levels of coverage. Criteria will need to be established for eligibility and Vice-Chairman Tosi would like to receive input from the companies. There was a question about when this would be implemented. Commissioner Tulli distributed literature to the Board regarding expanded federal survivor benefits that are now available for any firefighter who suffers a heart attack or stroke and dies within 24 hours of an incident. Legislation was also passed allowing for more grants to provide funding for extra manpower at fire departments. Pension: The next meeting will be May 12th.

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. Interim Chief Esposito noted that the exterior site work has begun at Company #4. He appreciated all the assistance given by Captain Neubig regarding the septic tank problem. He mentioned a planning and zoning application for 435 Foxon Road. Annual physicals have been taking place and more are scheduled on April 19 and 26th. St. Raphael's agreed to tailor their physical to the Board's requirements for the active retiree members. Regarding grants, applications will be submitted for five grants within the fire operations and safety program area. A radio upgrade, fire alarms in fire houses, emergency generator for Company #4, extractor to wash Company #4 gear and blood-stained items and diesel exhaust removal systems will be requested in grants. The Interim Chief reported that live fire training is taking place at Augur's and a final burn is scheduled for April 17th. They have received a trailer to use and they are hoping to use 296 and 292 Branford Road for training purposes. He also attended a meeting with the East Shore Health District regarding procedures for possible outbreaks of epidemics.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: David Burich and Interim Chief Anthony Esposito met with Joan Follo, the curriculum administrator for the schools, regarding incorporating EMT training into the high school program. She was receptive but it couldn't be implemented prior to the 2006/07 year. They will meet with the principal and school nurse to discuss it further. Interim Chief Esposito also spoke to the Adult Education Coordinator and she felt that too many hours (140 hours) were involved as well as additional money to pay for the teacher. She'll check with other area towns.

NEW BUSINESS: The ambulance specifications were distributed and will be discussed more fully at the next meeting. Interim Chief noted that the deposits for the ambulance since January have been approximately \$86,000.00. Council liaison Esposito requested that Interim Chief Esposito get partial figures for April to determine if there will be enough revenue to decrease the budget request for the fire department. Regarding the requirements for physicals for active retiree members, the Board will discuss and determine the criteria.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Onofrio mentioned the Blood Drive at Company #3 on April 10th. Company #2 will be having an Easter Egg Hunt.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: The ambulance specifications will be discussed as well as the requirements for the Chief's position. The physical requirements for "active retiree" members will be discussed.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner Tulli and seconded by Vice-Chairman Tosi to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk