

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

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #2 FIREHOUSE

MAY 6, 2004

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 Commissioner Patricia Nagot. Commissioners Donald LaBanca and Joseph Tulli were absent.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: None.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Tosi and seconded by Commissioner Nagot to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 1, 2004. On roll call vote, all in favor.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: A letter was received from Tom Smith requesting that his status be changed to active retiree as of March 23, 2004. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Nagot to approve his pension with 23 years of credited service. On roll call vote, all in favor.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Reports for April were distributed at the meeting and it was noted that there were 114 calls.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Purchasing and Budget: The budget was passed at the Annual Town Meeting. The funding to acquire secure vaults for the apparatus to control the master key for the knox box wasn't allowed because an ordinance has not yet been passed.

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. Some problems still need to be resolved, i.e. the outdoor lighting affecting neighbors as well as the dumpster issue. He stated that Brook & Whittle is expanding and he is reviewing the site plan for 260 Branford Road. There has been a favorable response for the department's annual physicals. The FEMA FIRE Act Grant was filed for radio enhancements, diesel exhaust, Company 4 generator, hazardous material extractor and a fire alarm/security system for each station. The "big burn" took place at Augur's on April 25th. Many hours of training were completed prior to this burn which lasted approximately two hours. There were several complaints from some local businesses about the smoke. Interim Chief Esposito recommended that the town contract with Radio Communications Associates for the radio system consultant. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future with them to discuss the department's concerns. He informed the Board of a possible new hazmat vehicle that Monroe Fire Department is selling for \$3000.00. The Town Manager, the Public works mechanic and Interim Chief Esposito inspected the truck and felt that it would be a good

purchase for the department. He also distributed copies of an article that suggests that no standards be set for the ambulance unless it is recommended by Holdsworth. The Secretary of the State requested a list of the active members for an event scheduled for Tuesday, May 11th in Milford at 10:00 a.m. It is a recognition ceremony and the possibility of getting a charter bus was discussed if there is sufficient interest. He requested approval for a transfer of \$45,000 to cover the cash payments to volunteers instead of pension contributions for this year. Vice Chairman Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Nagot to approve the transfer of \$45,000 from account 4220-320 to 4220-102 to reclassify the stipend for those who took it as cash instead of a pension contribution. On roll call vote, all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Regarding the ambulance specifications, Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Nagot to approve the ambulance specifications to be put out to bid. On roll call vote, all in favor. There will be minor changes in the specs, i.e. changing from halogen lights to LED lights. Regarding the annual physical requirements for active retiree members, it was decided that there would be no diminished job duties and their abilities would be dictated by their physicals. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Tosi and seconded by Commissioner Nagot to award the contract to Radio Communications Associates for radio consultant services. On roll call vote, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: There was discussion about the possibility of purchasing the hazmat vehicle from Monroe. It was decided that money would need to be spent on the donated Evergreen Woods bus and this vehicle was already outfitted for a hazmat vehicle. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Nagot to send a letter to Town Manager Karl Kilduff to proceed with the purchase of the Hazmat truck and authorize the expenditure from the equipment reserves and the costs to outfit the vehicle from the department's operating budget. On roll call vote, all in favor.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Neubig informed the Board of the golf tournament for Company #2 to be held on June 25th.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: The Board will discuss the insurance issue if information is received for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Tosi and seconded by Commissioner Nagot to adjourn the meeting at 8:25p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk