

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

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #3 FIREHOUSE**

**JUNE 3, 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, Patricia Nagot and Joseph Tulli.

**OTHERS:** Officers: Interim Chief Anthony Esposito, Jr., Captains John Florio, Ken Neubig and John Onofrio, Lieutenants Robert Colangelo, Joseph Manzi and David Roden and Fire Inspectors John O'Brien and John Zulawski. **OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:** Council liaison Andrew Esposito.

**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 May 6, 2004. On roll call vote, three in favor and two abstentions by Commissioners Donald LaBanca and Joseph Tulli as they were absent.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:** A letter was received from the Frey family thanking the department for fixing their lamp post that was knocked down during the winter by fire apparatus. They wanted to thank John Rossotto and Russ Marchetti for the repairs.

**DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS:** The Fire Marshal's Reports for May were distributed at the meeting and it was noted that there were 130 calls.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Pension:** Vice-Chairman Tosi stated that Tom Smith's retirement pension was approved with twenty-three years credited service. He received a pension investment return report that showed a slight increase. Interim Chief Esposito requested a meeting with the pension subcommittee to discuss a possible revision of the ambulance pension requirements. Vice-Chairman Tosi hopes to have the insurance figures by the fall and discuss them with the Town Council.

**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 stated that he would like to have the Board recognize the efforts of Barry Turner, the mechanic at Public Works, for his assistance with the department's vehicles as well as his boss, Fran Merola, for allowing him to do the work. Some issues discussed were: the Company 4 building issue and manpower, planning and zoning reviews for 1645 Foxon Road and 1037 Middletown Avenue, a recruitment and retention meeting and an upcoming meeting with Radio Consultants of America regarding the issues with the system. He discussed the Special Hazards Unit which was brought to the meeting for viewing purposes. In a discussion regarding the testing of the fire hoses, the Board agreed to contract the hose testing and the Interim Chief should

check on prices. He also passed around a photo of all the members who attended the Milford program honoring the fire department personnel. He informed the Board about the structure fire at 243 Branford Road during which mutual aid from Branford and Guilford was brought in. He stated that it was a good knockdown with all four companies assisting. Two members were injured at the fire. District Chief Amatrudo suffered serious ankle injuries and will be unable to put any pressure on them as one ankle was broken and the other had a severe sprain. Also, Pete Stadolnik injured his left knee. He was also transported to the hospital and was treated and released. It was mentioned that these are workers compensation claims. The Board offered their concern for their conditions.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Chairman Civitello informed the Board that nine resumes/applications were received for the Chief's position and the Personnel Search Committee will schedule a meeting to discuss them.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** Captain Onofrio questioned the pension relating to military personnel. There was some discussion regarding whether or not a provision should be made so military personnel can receive a pension point for that year. The Board will review the language of the pension plan. Fire Inspector O'Brien filed a grievance with the Board regarding the steps taken to fill the Chief's position and he would like a written response to his issues. Some issues were: the announcement for the Chief's position was not posted at the firehouses, department officers were not notified of the posting and the length of time the Chief's position is remaining open. Interim Chief Esposito noted that the Fire Department will be providing coverage at the high school field for the Relay for Life Cancer Awareness program on Saturday. The companies will be participating in the Touch a truck on Sunday at the Auditorium.

**WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION:** The Board will cancel the scheduled meetings for July and August. The Personnel Search Committee will meet regarding the Chief's position.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Commissioner Nagot and seconded by Commissioner LaBanca to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen  
Board Clerk