

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

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #3 FIREHOUSE

OCTOBER 7, 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, Commissioners Donald LaBanca, Patricia Nagot and Joseph Tulli.

OTHERS: Officers: Interim Chief Anthony Esposito, Jr., District Chief Mark Amatrudo, Captains Laura Burich, John Florio, Ken Neubig and John Onofrio, Fire Inspector John O'Brien, Lieutenants Robert Colangelo, Joseph Manzi and David Roden.

The Board presented plaques to Barry Turner and Fran Merola from Public Works for their service to the Fire Department. Barry does a tremendous job working on the department's vehicles and Fran, as his boss, allows him to do this. The Board and Department were very appreciative of their efforts.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: During this portion of the meeting, Bob Fairbairn, radio consultant, spoke about the issues regarding updating the equipment for the department. He stated that it is operating normally but it's also eleven years old and the tower site has multiple transmitters on it. His preliminary findings indicated that additional transmitter/receiver sites would be needed. He hopes to have a final report completed by the end of December after additional meetings with the department. Company 3's antique truck was given an award for best appearing antique in the State at the recent State Fireman's Convention.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: A motion was made by Commissioner Tulli and seconded by Commissioner Nagot to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 2, 2004. On roll call vote, three in favor and two abstentions by Vice-Chairman Tosi and Commissioner LaBanca as they were absent from that meeting.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: A thank you note was received from Chairman Civitello in appreciation of the gift sent in memory of his wife.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for September was distributed at the meeting and it was noted that there were 116 calls. The ambulance monthly analysis for August was part of the Chief's report. Chairman Civitello commended the members of Companies 1 and 2 as well as the ambulance crew for a great job concerning a motor vehicle accident rollover in which a difficult extrication was necessary.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Personnel Search Committee has another meeting scheduled within the week regarding the appointment of Fire Chief.

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 discussed the Company 4 drainage issue as well as the bid for the new ambulance. There was some discussion about revising the spec to include two remounts. The Board encouraged him to look at all options. Other items discussed were planning and zoning reviews, the budget, a recruitment and retention seminar to be held on October 23rd, the repair of the Hurst Tool, the fire watch for the circus, fire prevention, and the Open House. He distributed a copy of a letter sent to all the dispatchers regarding communication issues for dispatching fire calls. He also thanked the four Captains for their assistance in completing the paperwork for the Homeland Security grants. Tower 1 is scheduled for repair and a loaner from Nichols Fire Apparatus is available for use. Also discussed was the drill for advanced disaster/life support training at Company 2 and 4 that was engineered by David Burich in his role at Yale-New Haven Hospital. A thank you letter from David Burich to Company 2 and 4 was read thanking them for all their assistance. Each of the two companies will receive a \$500 check for their participation. Most of the pension statistics are complete and will be mailed to the Board for their approval as soon as possible. A question arose regarding the Shell Gas Station at Rts. 80 and 22 and it was noted that they are in litigation with the Town over the size of the canopy for the gas pumps.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Chairman Civitello stated that the unfinished business is the ongoing search for a new chief.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner LaBanca mentioned that there are some minor changes in the Bylaws regarding housekeeping and positions that no longer exist that he would like to have presented to the ByLaws/Rules and Regulations Committee for action. Chairman Civitello stated that the Bylaws Committee will meet and show a report to the Board at the next meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Company 1 is holding a fundraiser this weekend with a letter campaign as well as a “fill the boot campaign” in front of Company 1 on Saturday and Sunday. Chairman Civitello questioned whether or not the Police Department was notified in case of traffic problems and Captain Florio assured the Board that he did notify the Police Department.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: Bob Fairbairn, radio consultant, may return at the next meeting for additional information. The Bylaws/Rules and Regulations Committee will report to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner LaBanca and seconded by Vice-Chairman Tosi to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk