

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

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #4 FIREHOUSE

NOVEMBER 4, 2004

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

OTHERS: Officers: Interim Chief Anthony Esposito, Jr., Captains Laura Burich, John Florio, and Ken Neubig, Fire Inspector John O'Brien, Foremen Ken Ash and Gary Samperi.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: During this portion of the meeting, Phyllis Dunphy, a dispatcher, discussed some of her complaints with the new EMD protocol. She was opposed to switching the fire dispatch to Guilford. Her complaints were more system-related, involving the CAD and EMD. She felt that it was confusing and complicated and stated that the police do not know the codes and it takes more time for them to check their cards before proceeding to an emergency. She felt that plain language would eliminate much of the confusion. She saw no benefit in moving the system to a regional dispatch center in Guilford and was afraid of losing her job. She, along with Diane Ramsey, another dispatcher, were angry over the memo sent to them by Interim Chief Esposito regarding their problems dispatching. She stated that Lieutenant D'Ancicco requested a meeting with Interim Chief Esposito and he got no response. Interim Chief Esposito stated that Lieutenant D'Ancicco never contacted him about setting up another meeting but he would contact him in the morning to discuss the issue. After much discussion, Interim Chief Esposito would make arrangements to meet with the dispatchers to discuss any concerns that they had with the new system.

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 October 7, 2004. On roll call vote, all in favor.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for October was distributed at the meeting and it was noted that there were 122 calls. The ambulance monthly analysis for September was included as part of the Chief's report.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Bylaws/Rules and Regulations: Regarding some changes to be made in the Rules and Regulations, Chairman Civitello stated that he will distribute copies to the Board after the meeting and he will post copies of the changes in the four companies. There will be action taken at the next meeting. Purchasing and Budget: If anyone has a suggestion for items to be included in next year's budget request, please notify the Interim Chief who will be working on the budget. Pension: The next meeting will be held on November 10th at 10:00 a.m.

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 ambulance specifications that were forwarded to the Board for review and he commented on some planning and zoning reviews. A majority of the officers attended the Recruitment and

Retention seminar on October 23rd and some interesting ideas came out of the meeting. He felt that a mission statement for the department was needed. He brought a sign with the telephone number 1-800-FireLine which will be displayed in town and the caller will be able to get contact information for the department. The Radio System Consultant, Bob Fairbairn, is still preparing a document for presentation at a future meeting. Regarding dry hydrants, the first one is soon to be operational and future sites are being discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Chairman Civitello stated that the ambulance specifications had been sent to the Board for review. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nagot, to approve the ambulance specifications as presented to be sent out to bid. On roll call vote, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: The pension statistics for 2003-2004 were discussed and all Captains had an opportunity to review their company's stats. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tulli, to approve the pension statistics for 2003-2004 and to award a year of credited service to the departmental officers. On roll call vote, all in favor.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Neubig inquired when the last increase in the pension plan was applied. After some discussion, it was decided that the Board should request an increase in the pension at the next town pension meeting on Wednesday, November 10th. Commissioner Nagot made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Tulli to give Vice-Chairman Tosi permission to request an increase in the pension plan to \$22 per month/per year of credited service at the next meeting – a \$2.00 increase. On roll call vote, all in favor. Captain Florio asked why the fuel at Company 1 could not be obtained at a discounted rate. The Board of Education, who does the bulk purchase bid which Companies 2 and 3 can take advantage of, stated that it wasn't possible. Interim Chief Esposito will again check into the matter. Captain Florio also addressed the pager problems at Company 1. He stated that he currently needs about 10 working pagers for new volunteers as well as replacement pagers for others. Interim Chief Esposito will first check with Radio Consultant Bob Fairbairn to be certain that any new pagers would be compatible with a new system. Captain Florio also felt that there should be new equipment available for any new volunteers. Interim Chief Esposito stated that he just received six new red helmets and there is spare gear at the various Companies, should it be needed. The dates for the upcoming meetings of the Board were selected. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Tulli to approve the dates as outlined for the 2005-2006 meetings. On roll call vote, all in favor. A question was raised about the appointment of a new chief. Chairman Civitello stated that an appointment will hopefully be made at the January, 2005 meeting.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: Bob Fairbairn, Radio Consultant, may return at the next meeting to supply additional information to the Board. The Board will take action on the changes proposed by the Bylaws/Rules and Regulations Committee.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner Nagot and seconded by Commissioner Tulli to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk