

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #2 FIREHOUSE

MAY 1, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL: Chairman Joseph Civitello, Vice-Chairman Donald LaBanca and Commissioners James Blakeslee, John Florio and Angelo Tosi.

OTHERS: Officers: Chief William Seward III, Deputy Chiefs Robert Colangelo and Anthony Esposito, Jr., Fire Inspector John O'Brien, and Captains Laura Burich, John Florio, and John Onofrio.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Company #1 member Tom Crotty asked the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) for clarification on whose responsibility it is to pay for the repair of the garage doors, motors, etc. - the Town or the individual Company. The signed lease agreement does not specifically mention the garage doors that have been damaged several times. Captain Onofrio felt that it was the responsibility of the Companies to maintain the buildings in good working order but also felt that the Town should be sure that the doors are working. Chairman Civitello stated that he and Chief Seward have a meeting scheduled on Friday with new Town Manager Richard Branigan and he will ask for clarification on that issue. Company #1 received three quotes for a new roof for their building as the latest roof was installed in 1989.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Commissioner Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee that the BOFC approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 7, 2008. On roll call vote, three in favor and one abstention by Vice-Chairman LaBanca due to his absence from that meeting and one abstention by Commissioner Florio as he was not yet a Board member at that meeting. Commissioner Blakeslee made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Florio that the BOFC approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 3, 2008. On roll call, three in favor and two abstentions by Vice-Chairman LaBanca and Commissioner Tosi due to their absence.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: A letter from the VFW regarding the Memorial Day Parade at the Northford section of Town was received extending an invitation to march on May 26th. A thank you from the Town of Wallingford/Fire Chief regarding a mutual aid response was also received.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for April listing 128 calls was distributed at the meeting. Reports were also received and distributed from Deputy Chiefs Colangelo and Esposito and District Chief Amatrudo. It was noted that the Fire Marshal's April Report contained a typographical error - there were 6 mutual aid calls, not 56. It was also noted that Fran Merola and his crew assisted at Company #4 with the landscaping issue and the Clerk was instructed to forward a thank you note to them. A General Order was distributed regarding response to public services calls and it distinguishes the powers of the Board and the duties of the Chief.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Chairman Civitello stated that he would change the committees to reflect Commissioner Florio's appointment to the Board. The Budget referendum will be the second Tuesday in May and the Pension Committee Meeting is scheduled for May 14th.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward distributed a memorandum to the Board regarding the Chief's

report for the month of April that is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. The remaining funds of \$2,542.00 available from the 2006 AFG will be used to purchase approximately 75 CO/Smoke Detectors for distribution to select Town residents. Chief Seward will solicit additional assistance from Lowe's. The ID Tag System will be implemented under the 2007 Regional AFG. The 2008 AFG application was submitted. Chief Seward appreciated the assistance from the Fire Marshal's office with the information needed for this Application. Based upon available funds from the Town's LoCIP account, the communication system will be upgraded with a new main repeater. Deputy Chief Esposito asked the BOFC to reestablish the Town-wide Communication Committee that could incorporate police issues and fire issues with long term strategic planning. He suggested that a meeting be scheduled. Chief Seward informed the Board that there have been issues with dispatch procedures regarding tones being received without any further information. He will explore solutions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: District Chief Amatrudo's monthly report to the Board was discussed. It was felt that the Department could benefit from information gained at the seminars he attended.

NEW BUSINESS: The issue of obtaining some Town land for a training center was discussed as well as a burn trailer. Chairman Civitello will also bring this issue to the Town Manager for discussion. It was noted that an Executive Session with District Chief Amatrudo will be scheduled for a future meeting to discuss his status.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Deputy Chief Esposito received a call from the Town Council liaison Andrew Esposito who inquired about the Knox Box issue. It was requested that he attend the next BOFC meeting and a letter will be sent to him requesting his attendance. Deputy Chief Colangelo stated that he felt a Council member displayed unprofessional conduct towards Chief Seward at a recent Council meeting. There was some discussion about the incident and it was noted that apologies were made after the meeting. Vice-Chairman LaBanca discussed the recent Norwich fire leaving 175 people homeless and suggested any available firefighters volunteer to assist. They need people to help sort donated items and he was informed that their insurance will cover any volunteers who sign in to assist.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: Deputy Chief Esposito will send the ordinance on Fire Marshal billing to all our Department Chiefs and Captains for their input prior to forwarding same to the Town Attorney.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner Blakeslee and seconded by Vice-Chairman LaBanca to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk