

# Town of North Branford

## Board of Fire Commissioners

### MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #4 FIREHOUSE

JULY 6, 2006

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**ROLL CALL:** Chairman Joseph Civitello, Vice-Chairman Angelo Tosi and Commissioners Donald LaBanca, Michael Manemeit, and Joseph Tulli.

**OTHERS:** Officers: Chief William Seward III, District Chiefs Mark Amatrudo and Anthony Esposito, Fire Inspector John O'Brien, Captains John Florio, Kenneth Neubig, John Onofrio and Thomas Rak, Lieutenants Richard Lennon, John Rossotto, and William Seward IV, and Foreman Ken Ash.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** Laura Burich informed the Board that a pancake breakfast is scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup> at Company #3 to raise funds for Seth Poston and his unit who are being deployed to Iraq.

**READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** A motion was made by Commissioner LaBanca and seconded by Commissioner Tulli that the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 1, 2006. On roll call vote, three in favor and two abstentions by Vice-Chairman Tosi and Commissioner Manemeit as they were absent from that meeting.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:** A letter from the Durham Volunteer Fire Department was received and read. Chief Harry Hall of Durham thanked the Chief for all the Department's support during a mutual aid assist on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

**DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS:** The Fire Marshal's Report for June was distributed and discussed at the meeting. It was noted that there were 134 calls for June. The Ambulance Activity Reports for May and June were also distributed.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Purchasing and Budget:** It was noted that the budget for the fiscal year 2005-2006 was not overspent. **Ambulance:** The new ambulances have been received and are parked outside for viewing purposes after the meeting. They will be registered shortly.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF:** Chief Seward distributed a memorandum to the Board regarding the Chief's report for the month of June that is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. He acknowledged the efforts of Captain Rak in resolving some issues with the new ambulances. He informed the Board that the alarm and entry systems are nearly completed, the items that were purchased through the Homeland Security Grant Program have been received, and the mobile radio bid award has been postponed. The Ambulance Activity Reports are up to date and are attached hereto. Also attached is the Standard Operating Guideline for Use of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and Personal Protective Clothing.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Regarding the Amendments to the Rules and Regulations, Vice-Chairman Tosi stated that he agreed with the changes as did Commissioner LaBanca. All other Board members were in agreement on the amendments. As there was no further discussion, Commissioner Manemeit made a motion that was seconded by Vice-Chairman Tosi. Be it hereby resolved that the North Branford Board of Fire Commissioners hereby approves the Rules and Regulations of the North Branford Fire

Department, as amended, pursuant to the process delineated therein, effective July 6, 2006. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Regarding the appointment of Fire Chief, Commissioner LaBanca made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Tulli. Be it hereby resolved that the North Branford Board of Fire Commissioners hereby appoints William H. Seward IV as Chief of the North Branford Fire Department, pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of the North Branford Fire Department, for a three-year term from July 6, 2006 to July 5, 2009. Furthermore, the Board instructs the Clerk to immediately notify the Town Clerk's office of this appointment so that Chief Seward can be sworn in to satisfy Town Charter requirements. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Regarding the appointment of Deputy Chief-Training Officer, Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Manemeit. Be it hereby resolved that the North Branford Board of Fire Commissioners hereby appoints Robert W. Colangelo as Deputy Chief-Training Officer of the North Branford Fire Department, pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of the North Branford Fire Department, for a two-year term from July 6, 2006 to July 5, 2008. Furthermore, the Board instructs the Clerk to immediately notify the Town Clerk's office of this appointment so that Deputy Chief Colangelo can be sworn in to satisfy Town Charter requirements. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Commissioner LaBanca presented an award to Captain Onofrio for Company #3's truck as "best appearing custom pumper" in its age bracket at the annual New England Fire Chiefs Convention in Springfield, MA.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** Captain Neubig commented on the issue of a potential increase in the pension and that it had to be discussed at the Finance Committee Meeting first before being presented to the Pension Committee. He was told that the Board would handle the matter and was disappointed because no Board members attended the meeting. Chairman Civitello stated that he was informed that it was not on the Agenda for the meeting and would not be discussed. Also, Captain Neubig was disappointed that just he and the Chief were at the meeting for the budget cuts without any representation from the Board. Captain Florio also mentioned that the Town Council stated they would not pay utilities until rental agreements are signed. He would like to encourage the Town Council to meet with the Captains and Commissioner Manemeit stated that he would like to be on the Committee. Chairman Civitello will try to arrange a meeting. Captain Florio also stated that he had an issue with the lack of pagers available for his members. Basically, repair parts are mostly unavailable for the pagers currently in use. Chief Seward requested that the Captains email him with the number of pagers needed and possibly the capital improvement funds could be used for this purpose. Commissioner Manemeit felt that the pager issue should first be brought up at an Officers' meeting and then directed to Chief Seward prior to approaching the Board. The Chief mentioned that he was researching other methods as a backup plan – using global connect which would broadcast on Nextel, pagers, etc.

**WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION:** Chairman Civitello stated that the August Board meeting would be suspended unless a meeting was required.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Commissioner Manemeit made the motion that was seconded by Commissioner LaBanca for Executive Session. Be it hereby resolved that the Board of Fire Commissioners adjourns to Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. for discussion on pending litigation pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 1-200(6)(B). Those present include Chairman Civitello, Vice-Chairman Tosi, Commissioners LaBanca, Manemeit, Tulli, Fire Chief Seward and District Chief Anthony Esposito. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Be it hereby resolved that the Board of Fire Commissioners returns to Open Session at 8:45 p.m. was

the motion made by Commissioner LaBanca and seconded by Vice-Chairman Tosi. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Commissioner LaBanca made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Tulli regarding Chief Seward's title. Be it hereby resolved that the Board of Fire Commissioners amend a previous motion regarding the appointment of Chief Seward IV to the appointment of Chief Seward III as Fire Chief. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Tosi and seconded by Commissioner Tulli that the meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners adjourns at 8:48 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen  
Board Clerk