

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #4 FIREHOUSE

NOVEMBER 2, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

Chairman Civitello requested that a moment of silence be observed for former Commissioner Manuel Cabral who passed away October 5, 2006.

OTHERS: Officers: Chief William Seward, District Chief Anthony Esposito, Captains John Florio, Ken Neubig, and John Onofrio, Lieutenants John Rossotto and William Seward IV and Foremen Ken Ash and Brandon Gleason.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Onofrio informed the Board that the fried dough pizza event previously scheduled for October was rescheduled to November 11th.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tulli that the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 7, 2006. On roll call vote, all in favor. The minutes of the previous meeting held on October 5th could not be approved as there wasn't a quorum of members from that meeting present.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: Chairman Civitello stated that a thank you note was received from Philomena Cabral expressing her appreciation to the entire department for all their assistance with the wake and funeral for Manuel Cabral. Chief Canelli sent a letter thanking the department for their support and assistance with the funeral for Officer Dan Picagli. A memo was received from Michele Knockwood, Risk Manager, regarding worker's compensation coverage and automobile coverage for volunteer firefighters. After some discussion, it was determined that some clarification was needed on some issues and Chief Seward will contact her.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for October was distributed and discussed at the meeting. It was noted that there were 133 calls for the month. The Ambulance Activity Report for September was also distributed. Chief Seward noted that there is a meeting scheduled for Monday morning with the new vendor to discuss billing. Deputy Chief Colangelo submitted a training report regarding various department activities.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Pension: The Town's Pension Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 14th at 10:00 a.m. and Vice-Chairman Tosi will attend the meeting. The pension statistics for 2005-06 were previously forwarded to the Board. Vice-Chairman Tosi made the following motion: Be it hereby resolved that the BOFC approve the listing of members who earned a year of credited service for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, which includes all departmental officers, and instructs the Clerk to send the list to the Town's Pension Committee. Commissioner Tulli seconded the motion. On roll call, all in favor. Transportation: It was noted that most repairs on the vehicles, including the ambulances, are performed by the Town Garage, except when covered by warranty.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward distributed a memorandum to the Board regarding the Chief's report for the month of October that is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. He discussed the 2006 application process for the Homeland Security Grant Program. Funds to be allocated across the country have decreased. The funds received must first be used for a radio in the dispatch center to directly communicate with the State OEM Headquarters. He stated that there had been some discussion for a Reverse 911 program to be initiated but the cost would be approximately \$32,000 and 16 extra phone lines would be needed. Some personnel issues are currently being addressed. After meeting with the parents of the two members of the Explorer Program and receiving new information, the two individuals were reinstated. Tactical Communications is currently replacing the communication system components.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Chief Seward requested that the Board address issues regarding the Explorer Program of which there are approximately 30 members in Town. He would like a set of universal guidelines to be established and recommended that the Board appoint a committee for that purpose. It was also noted that a revised set of Rules and Regulations will be printed and distributed to the Captains who will then distribute to their companies.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Florio requested that a meeting date be set to discuss changing some qualifications for the pension. Chairman Civitello will discuss a date with Commissioner LaBanca. Captain Onofrio thanked the Chief and Chairman for resolving the recent issues with the Explorer Post. The Captains received a letter from the Town Manager regarding resolving the leases for the firehouses.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: None.

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 8:25 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk