

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #1 FIREHOUSE

DECEMBER 7, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:43 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.

OTHERS: Officers: Chief William Seward, Deputy Chief Robert Colangelo, District Chief Anthony Esposito, Fire Inspector John O'Brien, Captains John Florio and John Onofrio, Lieutenants Rich Lennon and Dave Roden, and Foreman Brandon Gleason.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: None.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Tosi and seconded by Commissioner Tulli that the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 2, 2006. On roll call vote, all in favor.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: A thank you letter was received from David R. Scott for allowing him the opportunity to make a presentation to the Pension Committee.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for November was distributed and discussed at the meeting. It was noted that there were 116 calls. The Ambulance Activity Report for October and November was also distributed.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Pension: Vice-Chairman Tosi noted that the Pension Committee, as well as the Town Council, approved the pension increase. There was some discussion that it was on the agenda for the upcoming Town Council meeting to become effective immediately. Vice-Chairman Tosi also noted that there is an issue regarding the percentage of calls required to qualify for a pension and the fact that Company #1 is required to make more calls. He will meet with Commissioner LaBanca to discuss this issue prior to presenting it to the Board.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward distributed a memorandum to the Board regarding the Chief's report for the month of November that is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. It was noted that the mobile radio system is 90% complete. The installation of antennas to upgrade will cost \$14,000.00. Guilford Fire Department has allowed this department to install our frequency on their system so that dispatch can be made from Guilford as a backup plan. The Chief requested that the Board send a thank you to Chief Hershcraft. It was noted that Engine Tanker 11 needs significant repairs and written estimates were received. The cost would be at least \$28,110.52. The Chief felt that the Town Manager was in agreement with this. Vice-Chairman made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Tulli that the BOFC approve the repowering of Engine Tanker 11. On roll call vote, all in favor. An officers meeting was held on December 6th and guidelines put forth by the State for the Explorer Post were discussed. The Chief felt that the Explorers meet or exceed the qualifications listed. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Tulli that the BOFC adopt the guidelines for the Fire Department Explorer activities based on those guidelines submitted by Chief Seward. On roll call vote, all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: The meeting dates for the Regular Board meetings for 2007 were discussed. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Tulli that the BOFC approve the schedule of dates for Regular Meetings of the Board for January, 2007 to January, 2008. On roll call vote, all in favor. Chief Seward stated that there was some discussion about upgrading the department's EMS level to paramedic and a meeting will be held with the Finance Committee members on Wednesday, December 13th at 4:00 p.m. for further discussion. It was noted that the Deputy Chief's position would possibly be filled in January. Chief Seward noted that the officers meetings are to be scheduled more frequently - every other month.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: None.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: Chief Seward requested the Board recognize outstanding achievements by department members at their meetings. It was suggested that the recognition be held at Town Council meetings as it was previously done.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Tosi and seconded by Commissioner Tulli that the BOFC adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk