

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #3 FIREHOUSE

JUNE 1, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

OTHERS: Officers: Fire Chief William Seward, District Chiefs Mark Amatrudo and Anthony Esposito, Fire Inspector John O'Brien, Captain John Onofrio, and Lieutenants Richard Lennon and John Rossotto.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: None.

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 May 4, 2006. On roll call vote, all in favor.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for May was distributed and discussed at the meeting. It was noted that there were 92 calls for May.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Bylaws/Rules & Regulations: The new changes were discussed in May and a clean copy was posted at all the firehouses and distributed to the Board members. The Rules and Regulations can not be voted on this month because thirty days has not passed but they will be voted on at the July meeting.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward prepared a memorandum to the Board regarding his report for the month of May that is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. The Chief mentioned that the keyless entry and fire alarm systems are being worked on and should be completed in approximately one month. The system at Company #1 is now complete. The air bags have been received and training will be done on their use. The Homeland Security Grant Program provided for many items that the department would not have been able to purchase otherwise. The Chief informed the Board that the new ambulances will be transported to Connecticut by department members next week. It is hoped that they will be put in service by early July. It was noted that the Town Council eliminated one part-time Fire Inspector's position from the budget for 2006-07. Chief Seward did speak in favor of keeping the position at the Council meeting. It will be a loss of approximately \$5000 to the budget and the question was raised as to whether the Council has the statutory authority to remove a fire inspector. There may be possible liability issues when inspections, burning permits, etc. can not be acted upon promptly with the reduced staff. After some discussion, Chairman Civitello stated that he would speak to the Town Manager regarding this issue and whether or not it is strictly monetary and monies could then be transferred to that line item.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Regarding the billing for services issue, it was noted that many communities are currently billing for these calls. Chairman Civitello felt that this discussion should be tabled at this time, as did the rest of the Board.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: The Board and those in attendance congratulated Captain Onofrio on the birth of his baby girl.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: Chairman Civitello stated that the vote on the amendments to the Rules and Regulations will be on the agenda for the July meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner LaBanca and seconded by Commissioner Tulli to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk