

# Town of North Branford

## Board of Fire Commissioners

### MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #2 FIREHOUSE

JANUARY 7, 2010

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**ROLL CALL:** Chairman Joseph Civitello, Vice-Chairman Donald LaBanca and Commissioners James Blakeslee and Anthony DellaCamera. Commissioner Angelo Tosi was absent.

**OTHERS:** Officers: Fire Chief William Seward, III, Deputy Chief Anthony Esposito, Jr., Fire Inspector John O'Brien, Captains John Florio, Ken Neubig, John Onofrio and Laura Burich and Lieutenant Megan Poston.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:** A motion was made by Vice-Chairman LaBanca and seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee that the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) appoints Anthony DellaCamera as Temporary Chairman for the purpose of the Organizational Meeting portion. The motion passed unanimously. Temporary Chairman DellaCamera called for nominations for Chairman and Commissioner Blakeslee nominated Joseph Civitello. No other nominations were made. Vice-Chairman LaBanca made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee that the BOFC appoint Joseph Civitello as Chairman of the Board. Vice-Chairman LaBanca then closed the nominations for Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee. The motion passed unanimously. The Clerk cast one ballot for Chairman Civitello. Chairman Civitello then called for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Blakeslee nominated Angelo Tosi as Vice-Chairman. Chairman Civitello made a motion that was seconded by Donald LaBanca that the BOFC appoint Angelo Tosi as Vice-Chairman. Commissioner DellaCamera closed the nominations for Vice-Chairman, seconded by Commissioner LaBanca. The motion passed unaimously and the Clerk cast one ballot for Vice-Chairman Tosi. Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner LaBanca that the BOFC reappoint Diane B. Whalen as Clerk of the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** None.

**READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Commissioner LaBanca made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera that the BOFC approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 1, 2009. On roll call vote, three in favor and one abstention from Commissioner Blakeslee as he was absent from that meeting. Commissioner Blakeslee made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera that the BOFC approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 5, 2009. On roll call vote, three in favor and one abstention by Commissioner LaBanca as he was absent from that meeting.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS:** The Fire Marshal's Reports for November, December and the 2009 year-end listing 142 calls, 145 calls, and 1576 calls respectively were distributed at the meeting along with reports from Deputy Chiefs Anthony Esposito, Jr. and Robert Colangelo, and Assistant Training Officer Mark Amatrudo. The Ambulance Activity Report for November was distributed. There was some discussion regarding the number of calls listed as the Chief is concerned that the computer system is losing data. Fire Inspector O'Brien agreed and stated that they don't have access to the Police Department data to confirm the number of calls.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Transportation: It was noted that the trucks will be inspected as soon as the weather gets a little warmer.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF:** Chief Seward's memorandum to the Board regarding his report dated January 5, 2010 for the month of December was distributed and is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. The Chief noted the Annual Report that was submitted to the Town Manager and Town Council and mailed to the Board previously. Regarding the replacement of extrication equipment, the Council agreed to allow the Department to replace one system. After further review of the equipment and survey of area departments, the Chief determined that two cutters for Rescues 11 and 22 and two diamond jaw tips for Rescue 11 Spreaders would be sufficient in the amount of \$10,720.00. Also, various size hoses were ordered to replace existing hose, totaling \$12,875.50. Several sets of gear were ordered. There was a presentation made to the Town Council on upgrading the EMS operations from BLS to Paramedic. He gave an overview of the Department's operations and the fiscal impact. The cost is a large concern. He felt that an additional \$60,000 would cover one half year of service. Twenty-four hour paramedic service would be provided to the residents. The Council will have the Finance Committee review the information. There was some discussion about hiring someone to do the billing in house. The Chief also noted that the radio system upgrade RFP has been provided to the Purchasing Assistant and will be going out to bid shortly.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Chief Seward asked that the Company officers go to the Town Clerk's office to be sworn in and the members will be sworn in at their monthly meetings.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Department's budget for 2010-2011 was discussed. Some changes were made to the suggested budget that was forwarded to the Board. There were increases to the heating oil and motor fuel line items and the current total is \$519,710.00. It was noted that there was a possibility that the Council would eliminate one of the Inspectors from the budget. It was suggested that if Fire Marshal fees and rescue billing fees were implemented, the fees would cover the cost of a second Inspector. Commissioner Blakeslee made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaBanca that the BOFC approve the Fire Department Operating Budget for the fiscal year 2010-2011 in the amount of \$519,710.00. On roll call vote, all in favor. The ambulance budget was then discussed. It was noted that \$50,000 would be requested for the 2010-2011 year (same amount as 2009-2010) if the ambulance remains at a basic life support level. An additional \$60,000, totaling \$110,000 would be required for paramedic service in Town for the 2010-2011 year assuming an implementation date of January 1, 2011. The Department would require a subsidy in the amount of \$160,000 for an entire year of paramedic service. The per capita cost for fire service is now approximately \$35.00. The per capita cost for fire service and the proposed paramedic service would be \$75.00. Commissioner LaBanca made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the BOFC approve the Ambulance Service Fund Budget for the fiscal year 2010-2011 in the amount of \$552,970.00. On roll call vote, all in favor. The equipment reserve was then discussed. It was noted that the replacement of Car 1 should be moved to the years 2010-2011 with a figure of \$25,000. The first lease payment for Rescue 11 could then be moved to the following year. Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaBanca, that the BOFC approve the Fire Department's Equipment Reserve for the fiscal year 2010-2011 with the expenditure of Car 1 replacement in the first year. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Capital Requests were then discussed and the Chief requested \$65,000 for the replacement of the SCBA Compressor as the budget request was due in late December. After some discussion, Commissioner LaBanca made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the BOFC approve the Capital Request Budget Item of the SCBA Compressor Replacement for the fiscal year 2010-2011 in the amount of \$65,000.00. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Chief Seward stated that no documentation could be found that officially designates Ed Doody as the fire police captain and recommended that the Board appoint him. Commissioner LaBanca made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee that the BOFC appoint Ed Doody as Captain of the Fire Police for a two-year period from January 7, 2010 to January 7, 2012. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** None.

**WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION:** It was noted that some additional members may have qualified for the 2008-2009 approved list of pension statistics.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Commissioner Blakeslee and seconded by Commissioner LaBanca to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen  
Board Clerk