

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #1 FIREHOUSE

APRIL 1, 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 Angelo Tosi and Commissioners Anthony DellaCamera and Daniel Munro. Commissioner James Blakeslee was absent.

OTHERS: Officers: Fire Chief William Seward, III, Deputy Chief Anthony Esposito, Jr., Fire Inspector John O'Brien, Assistant Training Officer Mark Amatrudo, Captains John Florio, Ken Neubig and Laura Burich and Lieutenant Richard Lennon.

The Board gave a presentation to former Fire Commissioner Don LaBanca for twelve years of service to the Board. The Board congratulated him and wished him well in the future.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: None.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Vice Chairman Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Munro to approve the Minutes from the March 4th Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC). On roll call vote, all in favor. The Minutes from the January 7th Regular Meeting could not be approved because there was not a quorum present from that meeting.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: A letter was received from East Haven Fire Chief Douglas F. Jackson regarding the fire on Warner Road. He appreciated all the assistance from the Department with the water supply.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for March, 2010 listing 145 calls was distributed along with reports from Deputy Chiefs Anthony Esposito, Jr. and Robert Colangelo.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Transportation: Commissioner DellaCamera stated that he would start inspecting the trucks along with Commissioner Munro.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward's memorandum to the Board regarding his report dated April 1, 2010 for the month of March was distributed and is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. The Chief noted that a new Standard Operating Guideline was implemented requiring minimum staffing levels on apparatus. The Simulcast Radio System Upgrade was discussed as the Chief met with Town officials regarding the requirements of the grant program. Verbal authorization was given to continue with the project and the Chief received a new RFP draft today for review. An informational handout for business owners regarding requirements for inspections has been designed and will be distributed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The budget talks between the Department and the Town Council are scheduled for next week. The members were encouraged to show their support by attending the session in uniform.

NEW BUSINESS: Chief Seward informed the Board that he attended the firefighters grant workshop and everyone wondered if and when the 2009 grant monies were going to be disbursed. He stated that no

rejection letters were sent out and he should know within the next few weeks as to the status of the grant. He noted that, unless a department's apparatus was older than 25 years, there would be no chance of getting a grant for newer equipment. The Chief asked for direction by the Board as to whether or not he should reapply for the air compressor in the 2010 grant as he will need to know within the next few weeks. The Board encouraged him to reapply if the Department is rejected for a grant for 2009. The Chief also described the Safer Act Grant that has monies available for volunteer departments to hire those who can fill a dual role. (ie: a fire marshal who also drives an apparatus on a regular basis)

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: The Chief gave details of a 5K Road Race that will be held on May 23rd at the High School for "Matt's Mission". The purpose is to establish a fund to assist students who can't afford to pay for items like cap and gown, prom, etc. The Fire Department will be providing EMS coverage at the start and finish lines and the police will provide traffic control. He encouraged the department to race together, if possible.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: The results of the budget meeting between the Town Council and the Department should be available by the May meeting. Attendance at the Town's Pension meeting in May will be discussed as Vice-Chairman Tosi will not be able to attend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner DellaCamera made the following motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Tosi: Be it hereby resolved that the BOFC adjourns to Executive Session at 8:11 p.m. for discussion on a personnel matter pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-200 (6)(A) to include Chairman Civitello, Vice-Chairman Tosi, Commissioners DellaCamera and Munro, Chief Seward, Deputy Chief Esposito, and Assistant Chief of Training Amatrudo. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Munro that the BOFC reconvenes to a public session at 9:38 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

A meeting was scheduled for a closed hearing regarding the suspension of a member.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner DellaCamera and seconded by Vice-Chairman Tosi to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk