

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #1 FIREHOUSE

APRIL 2, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

OTHERS: Officers: Deputy Chief of Training Robert Colangelo, Assistant Chief of Training Mark Amatrudo, Captains Laura Burich, John Florio, Ken Neubig, and John Onofrio, and Lieutenant Seth Poston.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Onofrio thanked the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) for the edible arrangement that he received from the Board during his recovery from surgery. He also made a few comments about the Potato Festival and the Department's ability to have a booth selling fried dough pizza at the Festival. There was a general consensus among the members that since the Department and its apparatus are requested at the Festival for all three days/nights without pay, they should be allowed to have a booth and make some money for their companies. It was also noted that the police get paid overtime for staffing the Festival. He felt as though there were a lot of rumors going around and was going to ask Chief Seward to resolve the matter. The Captains felt the departmental training was great and the Board was pleased with the training. Captain Onofrio noted that the Blood Drive is scheduled for April 18th at Company #2 because their firehouse was already booked for that day.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Commissioner Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera that the BOFC approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of March 5, 2009. On roll call vote, three in favor and two abstentions by Vice-Chairman LaBanca and Commissioner Blakeslee as they were absent from that meeting.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: A thank you note was received from Fire Marshal Bunnell for the edible arrangement that was sent to him in Florida during his recovery from hip surgery. A thank you email was also read from Patricia Lynn regarding her appreciation for the prompt response and excellent service the family received from the Fire Department for her father who fell and was in pain.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for March listing 106 calls was distributed at the meeting along with reports from Deputy Chief Anthony Esposito and Deputy Chief of Training Colangelo and Assistant Chief of Training Amatrudo.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Pension: Commissioner Tosi stated that the committee met with the Captains at Company #4 on March 30th to discuss possible pension changes. The basics of the changes are: 1) that a member can receive their pension for the actual number of years of service up to 45 years which is an increase from 30 years; 2) ambulance personnel will receive one pension point if they respond to a call but the call is cancelled; whereas previously, they did not receive any credit for a cancelled call; 3) members would receive one pension point for every twelve hours of on duty time; whereas, previously, the ambulance personnel received one point per twenty-three hours and there was no option available for fire personnel; and 4) the percentage of calls that Company #1

members would need to respond to for pension credit would be reduced to 10% from the original 15% that all Companies had to respond to, since their call volume is so much larger than the other Companies. Commissioner Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Vice-Chairman LaBanca that the BOFC approve the four proposed changes as outlined above. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Purchasing and Budget: The budget sessions scheduled with the Town Council have been moved to the Auditorium. The Capital Improvement Program for replacement of the Hurst tools and the air compressor for Company #2 have been removed from the budget request.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward's memorandum to the Board regarding his report for the month of March was distributed and is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. His report, since he was unable to attend due to a seminar in Texas, gave an update on the Department's budget request to the Town, noted that the RFP for the ambulance personnel vendor has been revised and the RFP for ambulance billing is being worked on. It was noted that Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro was at the Police Department regarding the \$500,000 grant that was given to the Town for the radio system upgrade.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Vice-Chairman LaBanca noted that the Companies did a great job on the proposed pension changes that were submitted. He also mentioned that there is a connection with this Town regarding the assault victim from East Rock Park and he noted that she is out of the hospital now.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: Commissioner Tosi will request the approved pension changes at the Town's Pension Committee meeting in May.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Vice-Chairman LaBanca and seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk