

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #2 FIREHOUSE

MAY 6, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:37 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 Chief of Training Mark Amatrudo, Captains Laura Burich and John Onofrio and Lieutenants Megan Poston and John Rossotto. **OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:** Robert S. Fairbairn, radio consultant from RCA.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Onofrio asked for permission for a fried dough pizza event on May 21st at Company #3 and the Board approved. Lieutenant Rossotto distributed copies of an email that he and others received from Vintech regarding a mandatory meeting that was in progress while a structure fire and medical calls were coming in and he felt that they wanted to delay the response of those in the meeting to the calls. According to Captain Burich, they were never told not to go to the call(s) but were also not told to go, either. It was the consensus of the Board and Chief that, since it was a mandatory meeting and some individuals left, that they probably wouldn't get paid for the time they should have been at the meeting.

Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion, which Vice-Chairman Tosi seconded, to modify the Agenda to move the Unfinished Business Item to next on the Agenda for the sole purpose of discussing the RFP regarding the Simulcast System and then return to the regular Agenda. On roll call vote, all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The Chief invited Bob Fairbairn to the meeting since Bob is assisting the Town in writing the RFP for the Simulcast system. Since it is a grant under the COPS program, it should be signed off under the authority of the Police Chief. They contacted Washington and were given the approval to continue with the project for Fire and Police. The purpose of the Simulcast system is to increase transmitting coverage using a multiple point dispatch. Mr. Fairbairn explained the second draft and stated that he has a meeting with the Police and Fire on Monday to discuss it further. The Chief stated that he doesn't want to create any more problems, just alleviate issues and make things better for the firefighters. After much discussion on the RFP and various issues that need to be worked on, the Board thanked Mr. Fairbairn for attending the meeting to answer any questions from the Board and for his input into the RFP.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Vice Chairman Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Munro to approve the Minutes from the April 1, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC). On roll call vote, all in favor. The Minutes from the January 7, 2010 Regular Meeting could not be approved because there was not a quorum present from that meeting.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: A notice was received from the VFW inviting the Department to participate in the Memorial Day Parade on May 31st at 10:00 a.m. in the Northford area of town. A letter from Chief Seward was read into the minutes regarding slanderous comments that were directed at him by Councilor Rose at the recent Town Council's budget workshop. Councilor Rose apologized at the next night's budget meeting and the Chief accepted the apology. Nonetheless,

the Chief stated that if it happens again, legal action will be pursued.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for April listing 130 calls was distributed along with reports from Deputy Chiefs Anthony Esposito, Jr. and Robert Colangelo and Assistant Chief of Training Mark Amatrudo.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Pension: the Town's Pension Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 12th at 4:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. It was noted that Pension Chairman Tosi will not be able to attend the meeting. Transportation: Commissioner DellaCamera stated that he and Commissioner Munro would like to start inspecting the trucks beginning at Company #3 on Wednesday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m. and would like any reports on repairs available for review. Purchasing and Budget: It was noted that, between the Town Manager and the Town Council, the Department's budget was cut by \$4500 in various line items as well as cutting an Inspector out of the budget. A review of the 2008-09 approved pension statistics revealed that four members were omitted but should have been listed. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera that the North Branford BOFC amends the list of qualified members for the 2008-09 fiscal year to include Denise Garitta, Frank Garitta, Jeff Green and Seth Poston and for the Clerk to forward a letter to the Town's Pension Committee advising them of this change. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Board received a request from Treasurer/Finance Director Anthony Esposito for a budget transfer regarding the pension stipend. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera to transfer \$51,750.00 from Account #101-4220-320-0000 (other contractual) to Account #101-4220-102-0000 (part time wages) of \$51,000.00 and \$750.00 to Account #101-4220-120-0000 (pension) to account for members who took their annual stipend as cash instead of pension contribution. On roll call vote, all in favor.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward's memorandum to the Board regarding his report dated May 3, 2010 for the month of April was distributed and is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. The Chief noted that all Standard Operating Guidelines, Operating Procedures, and Special Bulletins are now available on the Town's website. The Chief completed an update to the Rules and Regulations that was distributed to the Board. He attended a regional shelter tabletop exercise in New Haven and the full scale exercise will be held on July 31st in New Haven. The Simulcast Radio System Upgrade was discussed earlier in the meeting. The Chief will apply for funds from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program to cover the cost of replacing the breathing air compressor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Previously discussed earlier in the Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS: Deputy Chief Esposito noted that volunteers who are on a pay per call basis may be changing their status from vendors to employees and payroll taxes will then be deducted from paychecks. He will check with the Town Attorney and IRS regarding employee versus contractor status.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: None.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: Possible changes to the Rules and Regulations will be discussed.

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 8:53 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 Vice-Chairman Tosi that the BOFC reconvenes to a public session at 10:10 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Tosi and seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk