

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #3 FIREHOUSE

JUNE 4, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chairman LaBanca called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Neubig was disappointed that there was no Board representation at the Pension Committee when the proposed changes were to be presented to the Committee. Deputy Chief Esposito presented the proposed changes and Captains Neubig and Florio were there for support. Commissioner Tosi stated that he had to work that evening and wasn't able to attend but did contact Chairman Civitello to make him aware of his unavailability. Captain Neubig commented on the time frame for the physicals this past Monday evening. He noticed that they left prior to the 7:30 p.m. ending time. Chief Seward stated that they are paid by the number of physicals they perform and that only eight members arrived during the time and, since no one came for an extended period of time, they packed up and left at 7:27 p.m. Captain Onofrio notified the Board that the fried dough pizza event was changed to June 12th. He thanked the Chief for playing the bagpipes for Merton Benham, a long-time department member who passed away. He also thanked the Chief and Chairman Civitello for resolving the potato festival issue. Company #3 will have a booth to sell fried dough pizza and can keep 100% of their profits.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes could not be approved from the May 7th meeting as there wasn't a quorum of members present from that meeting.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for May listing 165 calls was distributed at the meeting along with reports from Deputy Chief Esposito and Assistant Chief of Training Amatrudo. The Ambulance Activity Reports for March, April and May were also distributed.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Pension: It was noted that the Pension Committee approved the four proposed changes modifying one of the Board's proposals. Instead of the request to fund up to 45 years of credited service that a member can accrue, they modified the proposal to fund up to 35 years of credited service for now. The Council will discuss the changes on June 16th and if approved, they would be effective July 1st.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward's memorandum to the Board regarding his report for the month of May was distributed and is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. His report noted that the CAD system will be upgraded as there have been recent system failures. As to the ambulance service personnel bid, the Chief recommended Vintech and as to the ambulance billing service, he recommended CAG. Funds will be requested to begin a feasibility study for the regionalization of 911 communications. All pumps have been tested and passed with no problems. Toughbook computers have been received.

OSHA medical exams must be performed by August 1st to receive certification for the use of a respirator to perform tasks requiring the use of same. The Chief distributed information on procedures for emergency vehicle response during hurricanes and tropical storms. It was also noted that the Red Cross will open a shelter if needed but will not operate it as they have limited staff.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The Chief noted that the Town Manager has received the paperwork to begin the grant for the \$500,000 simulcast system.

NEW BUSINESS: Regarding the reappointment of Chief Seward, everyone agreed the Chief is doing a great job and has brought professionalism to the job. Commissioner Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera that the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) reappoints Fire Chief William Seward III for a three-year term as Fire Chief beginning July 6, 2009 through July 5, 2012. On roll call vote, all in favor. It was then noted that the Fire Inspectors need to be reappointed. It was felt that they do an exceptional job as they are only part time with minimal pay and they are covering for Fire Marshal Bunnell who has been recuperating from surgery in Florida for the past five months. Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion that was seconded by Vice-Chairman LaBanca that the BOFC reappoints John O'Brien and John Zulawski for two-year terms as Fire Inspectors beginning June 4, 2009 through June 3, 2011. On roll call vote, all in favor. Chief Seward advised the Board that he spoke to the Town Clerk about administering the oath of office to all the officers and then to all the Company members and she was agreeable to that.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Florio suggested that a Department installation dinner be held annually instead of individual Company dinners. The Chief was in full support of that idea and asked Captain Florio to coordinate it with all the Companies. Captain Neubig advised the Board of the scheduled golf tournament for Company #2 on June 19th.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: Vice-Chairman LaBanca made a motion that the July and August meetings be suspended unless needed. Commissioner Tosi seconded that motion. On roll call vote, all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner Tosi and seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk