

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #2 FIREHOUSE

SEPTEMBER 4, 2008

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 Donald LaBanca and Commissioners John Florio and Angelo Tosi. Commissioner James Blakeslee was absent.

OTHERS: Officers: Chief William Seward III, Deputy Chief-Training Officer Robert Colangelo, Captains Laura Burich, John Florio and John Onofrio. **OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:** Council liaison Andrew Esposito.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: None.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Commissioner Florio made a motion that was seconded by Vice-Chairman LaBanca that the BOFC approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 5, 2008. On roll call vote, three in favor and one abstention by Commissioner Tosi due to his absence.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: A letter was received from the New Haven County Fire Commissioners Association regarding the buffet dinner meeting scheduled for September 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the Beachhead Restaurant. The Commissioners will determine who will attend after the meeting. A thank you letter was received from Sportsplex regarding the defibrillator that was donated to them. A second defibrillator was donated to Northford Ice Pavilion.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Reports for June, listing 132 calls, and July, listing 128 calls, were distributed prior to the meeting. The Report for August listing 173 calls was distributed at the meeting along with reports from Deputy Chiefs Colangelo and Esposito and District Chief Amatrudo. The Ambulance Activity report was also received.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Transportation: Commissioner Florio requested that the BOFC review all the apparatus at each Company since it hasn't been completed in several years. The Board agreed to set a date to visit each station and asked that the Clerk forward a letter to all Captains requesting their cooperation in making the records available.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward distributed a memorandum to the Board regarding the Chief's report for the month of August that is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. Various items were discussed. CO/Smoke detectors were distributed to residents, many to residents of the trailer park on Rt. 80. He noted that the 2006 AFG was closed out and the report accepted by FEMA. Training is complete for all dispatchers and new procedures were implemented. Radio system upgrades were discussed and the Chief noted the possibility of the award of a \$500,000 grant for a simulcast communication system. Confirmation of this grant, made possible by Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and U.S. Dept. of Justice, should be received after the November election. Ambulance 44 was involved in an accident and damage is estimated at \$9,000. Repairs will be made when the replacement parts are received. A tour of the Police Department and communications center to identify areas needing updating occurred. The Chief noted there has been some discussion regarding the construction of an addition to the Police Department to house the ambulance and the sale of the present ambulance building. Chief Seward stated that an

organizational chart had to be prepared per OSHA requirements. Two charts were presented to the BOFC and the basic difference was that one chart listed District Chiefs and the other did not. Commissioner Florio questioned whether input from the department was received on how they would like the department staffed. It was noted that when Deputy Chiefs were appointed, members complained of too many chiefs. A poll was taken of the Captains at the meeting and the general consensus was that the position should be eliminated. Captain Onofrio felt that two more chiefs aren't needed. Captain Burich felt the position should have been eliminated years ago. Captain Florio felt that unity should be stressed, all one department, and that the Deputy Chief positions were sufficient. Chief Seward felt the chart would be cleaner and shows chain of command without District Chiefs. Vice-Chairman LaBanca felt that the operation of the department and safety of its members was most important and felt that the organizational chart with all the Captains reporting to Deputy Chief Esposito was the best for the department. Chairman Civitello recommended that the position be eliminated as it divides the department into two areas. The Rules and Regulations would need to be amended to eliminate the District Chiefs from the organization. Vice-Chairman LaBanca made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Tosi to table the discussion on the organizational chart for a Special Meeting later in September. On roll call vote, all in favor. Two dates were discussed and it was mutually agreeable to schedule the meeting for September 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at Company #2 solely for the purpose of discussion and action regarding the structure of the organization and proposed/changes to the Rules and Regulations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Commissioner Florio inquired as to the status of the proposed training area for firefighters and the Chief stated that the Town Manager reacted favorably to the request. He will follow up on the issue.

NEW BUSINESS: The reappointment of Deputy Chief-Training Officer Colangelo was discussed. The Chief stated that he has only received positive comments on Bob's job performance and he recommended that he be reappointed. Commissioner Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Vice-Chairman LaBanca to reappoint Robert Colangelo as Deputy Chief-Training Officer effective July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Chief issued a General Order requiring the coordination of all training to go through Deputy Chief Colangelo. Chief Seward informed the Board of different options for the use of the laptops for electronic patient care and that a contract will be required with a software vendor. He also notified the Board that members Schreiber and Seward have been appointed to career departments and Lennon received his paramedic certification. Kevin Lyons, employed by AMR, is currently staging in Louisiana to assist with hurricane victims. Chief Seward also noted that he is reviewing the bylaws of each Company.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: The BOFC congratulated Robert Colangelo on his reappointment as Deputy Chief-Training Officer.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: A Special Meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Company #2. Items for next month's agenda are: recognition of Company members and reappointment of Deputy Chief Esposito and Chief Seward.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner Tosi and seconded by Commissioner Florio to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk

