

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #2 FIREHOUSE

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

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, Commissioners James Blakeslee, Donald LaBanca and Joseph Tulli.

OTHERS: Officers: Chief William Seward III, Deputy Chief Anthony Esposito, Jr., Fire Inspector John O'Brien, Captains John Florio, Ken Neubig and John Onofrio and Lieutenant William Seward IV.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Onofrio requested permission for a fried dough fundraiser on September 21st and the annual lobster dinner on October 13th. The Board gave their approval for the two fundraisers.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: A motion was made by Commissioner Tulli and seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee to accept the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 3, 2007. On roll call vote, four in favor and one abstention by Commissioner LaBanca due to his absence from that meeting. A motion was then made by Commissioner LaBanca and seconded by Commissioner Tulli to accept the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 7, 2007. On roll call vote, three in favor and two abstentions by Vice-Chairman Tosi and Commissioner Blakeslee due to their absence from that meeting.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: A meeting notice for the next New Haven County Fire Commissioners Association was received and discussed. The speaker for the meeting is Trooper Ken Christensen of the State Fire Marshal's Office who will be bringing his dog. A thank you for flowers received by the Esposito family was noted. Commissioner Joseph Tulli submitted his pension request for active retiree status. He was congratulated for his many years of service to the Department. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Tosi and seconded by Commissioner LaBanca to approve his pension request and forward it to the Pension Committee. On roll call vote, four in favor and one abstention by Commissioner Tulli. The Chief received a request to support the annual Firefighters/EMS Mass on October 6th. It was discussed and decided that, although it is a good cause, the individual Companies could contribute, as well as individuals, but not the Town.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for August was distributed and discussed at the meeting. It was noted that there were 140 calls for August. Reports were also received and distributed from Deputy Chief Colangelo. Deputy Chief Esposito will forward his report to the Clerk who will mail a copy to the Board.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Pension: The next meeting will be held in November and Commissioner Tulli's pension request will be brought up at that meeting.

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. The Chief gave the Board an update on the communication system that was struck by lightening and sustained serious damage. It was noted that surplus funds from the last fiscal year assisted with the replacement of portable

fire extinguishers and increasing the hose inventory where needed. GPS units are being installed on several vehicles that will assist in directing firefighters to mutual aid calls. The Standard Operating Guideline relating to bomb threats has been signed by the Police and Fire Chief and is now effective. The Chief will provide a copy to the school system for their information. Homeland Security funds will no longer be distributed directly to individual communities after this year. The ambulance activity report and Fire Marshal's reports for the fiscal year were discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Billing for fire calls will be discussed at a later meeting and Deputy Chief Esposito will provide additional information for the Board.

NEW BUSINESS: The Chief wanted to recognize members of the Department for completion of MRT and FF1 Courses. Congratulations and shirts were given to the all of the graduates of the MRT and FF1 courses as well as their instructors. MRT graduates: Nichole Angiollo, Matthew Boudreau, Mario DeRosa, John Florio, Justin Florio, Benjamin Johnson, Quint Johnson, Mark Langan, Christian Mastrianni, Thomas McNamara, Vincent Rapuano, and Mark Spinello. The three highest scorers - John and Justin Florio and Thomas McNamara also received blood pressure kits. FF1 graduates were Michael Gerwien, Jr., Craig O'Rourke, and Kimberly Wilson. The Chief took this opportunity to recognize the instructors of the MRT course: Deputy Chief Anthony Esposito and FF1 course: Deputy Chief Robert Colangelo. Company #3 members who assisted with the Fill the Boot Campaign for Muscular Dystrophy were also given thank you letters by the Chief for their time and dedication. The collection raised nearly \$5000. Liability coverage for EMS instructors was also discussed since they are classified as independent contractors. The Chief would like to continue to use Department members as instructors and is still researching the issue on who would pay for the coverage. The Chief requested copies of all of the Companies' Bylaws/Rules and Regulations. He also requested the driver license numbers noting that if their license number is not on the list, the Town's insurance doesn't cover them.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Fire Inspector O'Brien expressed some concerns about various issues relating to the Fire Marshal's office. He noted that the Town Council has decided that the Fire Marshal's office should be moved to the other end of the Town Hall. Currently the office is next to the Building/Zoning offices which is helpful for plan reviews. It was also noted that they are doing much of their own typing as the Town Manager informed them that too much time was being taken away from his secretary. Another vehicle would also be helpful to the office since they are putting miles on their cars and have to request reimbursement. The Board made plans to attend the next Council meeting to discuss various issues.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Tosi and seconded Commissioner Blakeslee to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk