

# Town of North Branford

## Board of Fire Commissioners

### MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #3 FIREHOUSE

OCTOBER 1, 2009

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

**OTHERS:** Officers: Fire Chief William Seward, III, Deputy Chief Anthony Esposito, Jr., Deputy Chief of Training Robert Colangelo, Fire Inspectors John O'Brien and John Zulawski, Captains John Florio, Ken Neubig, and John Onofrio and Lieutenant Megan Posten and Foreman Dave Roden.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** David Burich noted that the Chili Fest for Company #4 is scheduled for Saturday at Amato's from noon to 5:00 p.m.

**READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Vice-Chairman LaBanca made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Tosi that the Minutes from the September 3, 2009 Meeting be approved. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:** The Town Manager responded in writing to Mr. LaLuna regarding the dispatcher's allegations of harassment by the Fire Chief. The letter was read into the minutes. It was Town Manager Branigan's conclusion that Chief Seward did not interfere or harass the dispatcher.

**DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS:** The Fire Marshal's Report for September listing 133 calls was distributed at the meeting along with a report from Deputy Chief of Training Robert Colangelo. The Ambulance Activity Report for August was distributed.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:** It was noted that the Town's Pension Committee will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in November and the pension statistics will be available at the Board's November meeting for approval.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF:** Chief Seward's memorandum to the Board regarding his report for the month of September was distributed and is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. He is continuing his efforts on behalf of a simulcast system for the department. Manuals for the CERT program have been received and training should begin later this month. Several problems were discovered with the backup transmitter during routine radio tests on new portables. Tactical Communications is working to resolve the issues.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There have been computer issues in the Fire Marshal's office and they are being addressed. There have been concerns about the Companies' liability and workers' compensation relating to fundraising activities. A meeting with department officers and the Town Manager was held to address this issue as it was determined that members are not covered when doing fundraising activities. A Liability Waiver and Release form has been drafted and any member conducting any activity other than

fire duties must sign the waiver. The Town Manager is checking on what it would cost for the town policy to cover the liability.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** Chief Seward noted the new policy by the Director of Health that would provide medical services for law enforcement agency detainees. He forwarded an email to all the Captains regarding the policy that he would like posted at each station.

**WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Commissioner Tosi and seconded by Vice-Chairman LaBanca to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen  
Board Clerk