

# Town of North Branford

## Board of Fire Commissioners

### MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #3 FIREHOUSE

OCTOBER 2, 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 Anthony Esposito, District Chief Mark Amatrudo, Captains John Florio and John Onofrio, Lieutenants Richard Lennon and Joseph Manzi, and Foreman David Roden.

**RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS:** The following members were recognized by the Board as Firefighter I graduates: Jimmy Asmus, Erik Bachmann, Jordon Gleason, Artie Hausman, III, Jeremy Kopylec, Mark Langan, Andrew Seward, and Drew Sherwood. The Board congratulated all the members in attendance and a photo was taken after the presentation.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** None.

**READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Commissioner Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Florio that the BOFC approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of September 4, 2008. On roll call vote, all in favor. A motion was then made by Vice-Chairman LaBanca and seconded by Commissioner Tosi to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 23, 2008. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:** A letter was received from Theodore Olesen, a Company #3 member, who is requesting active retiree status. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman LaBanca and seconded by Commissioner Tosi that the BOFC accept and approve the pension request of Theodore Olesen for active retiree status and forward that request to the Town Pension Committee. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Captains will be contacted to set up a review of the apparatus.

**DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS:** The Fire Marshal's Report for September, listing 115 calls, was distributed at the meeting. Reports from Deputy Chiefs Colangelo and Esposito were also distributed. The Ambulance Activity report was also received.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Pension: Commissioner Florio reminded the BOFC that a remedy for the number of calls needed for pension points should be addressed. The Captains should meet to discuss this issue and determine what criteria would be needed to qualify for an active year of service. After a plan is presented to the BOFC Pension Committee, it will be discussed at a future meeting.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF:** Chief Seward distributed a memorandum to the Board regarding the Chief's report for the month of September that is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. Various items were discussed. The hose testing results were distributed and discussed by the BOFC. The Fire Incident Response Report for the fiscal year 2007-08 was distributed. It was noted that the new communications system repeater for the fire dispatch frequency has been installed and is operational. The receiver has been installed at Company #1. The Chief will continue to work on position descriptions for each position

in the Department.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The newly created position of Assistant Chief of Training was discussed. Commissioner Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Florio to appoint Mark Amatrudo as Assistant Chief of Training for the North Branford Fire Department for a two-year term effective October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2010. On roll call vote, all in favor. Congratulations were extended to Mark and it was noted that he will be an asset to the Department. The issue of one individual holding two positions was discussed. Chief Seward supported Fire Inspector John O'Brien in his appointed position as Fire Inspector and his elected position as Foreman in Company #1. The BOFC felt John was capable of holding both positions and the issue was not John, but the fact that it was the BOFC's policy not to wear two hats. The policy had been adopted by the Board and Fire Inspector O'Brien was told that he couldn't hold two positions when he was appointed as Fire Inspector. The Board discussed the option of him keeping the two positions until July 1<sup>st</sup>. Lieutenant Lennon, although he supported John in his appointment in Company #1's election as Foreman, felt that if that was the Board's policy to hold only one position, then the other position should be relinquished. The BOFC decided that an officer can't wear two hats and Inspector O'Brien should terminate one position immediately and advised the Clerk to send a letter to him. Commissioner Florio noted that a letter should be sent to Company #1 Chairperson regarding the fact that a special election will be needed to fill the vacant position. Chief Seward informed the Board of issues with the SCBA compressor at Company #2. The two choices were to overhaul the existing compressor or replace it. The Chief felt that it should be added to the capital projects for the next fiscal year budget. The Chief discussed implementing the electronic pc program in the next fiscal year's budget as he would like to install laptops in the fire apparatus. Commissioner Florio recommended that there be quarterly meetings with the Town Manager to keep him apprised of issues and the Chief stated that he currently meets with the Town Manager on a monthly basis.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** There was a question about use of an air compressor if the current compressor breaks down and it was noted that any surrounding department would accommodate this department.

**WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION:** The Board would like to send a letter to all Captains making them aware of the recognition of members at its Board meetings.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen  
Board Clerk