

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #4 FIREHOUSE

NOVEMBER 5, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 8:23 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

OTHERS: Officers: Fire Chief William Seward, III, Deputy Chief of Training Robert Colangelo, Assistant Chief of Training Mark Amatrudo, Fire Inspector John O'Brien, Captains John Florio, Ken Neubig and John Onofrio and Lieutenant John Rossotto.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Company #1 member Tom Crotty distributed copies of the bills for the garage door problems at their station and asked if Company #1 could be reimbursed for the charges. The Chief will speak to the Town Manager to request reimbursement for the invoices.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The Minutes of the October meeting could not be approved as there wasn't a quorum of members present from that meeting to do so.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: Captain Onofrio received a thank you letter from the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The Association was very appreciative of the money collected and the assistance it received from this Department. A letter entitled "A Gift of Time" from Lynn Riordan regarding her son, Matt, was received and read. She was very grateful to the Town's Fire and Police Departments for their speedy response to her son's accident and allowing her the ability to see him one last time before he passed. A letter was received from Mark Allis regarding due process for a suspension he received. The Executive Session will cover the issue.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for October listing 145 calls was distributed at the meeting along with reports from Deputy Chiefs Anthony Esposito, Jr. and Robert Colangelo. The Ambulance Activity Report for September was distributed.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: By-Laws/Rules & Regulations Committee: It was noted that there will be some proposed changes made to the Rules and Regulations.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward's memorandum to the Board regarding his report for the month of October was distributed and is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. He noted that the Town Manager would like to contract out the maintenance of the vehicles and suggested that they go to bid for an hourly rate for repairs. He informed the Board that all the pumps have been serviced. Each Company received a new forcible entry tool called the Hydra Ram. The Town's Emergency Operations Center received new equipment which includes a 42" television with wall mounting bracket, overhead video projector and screen, audio system and computer hookups, various portable radios and chargers and a combination printer, scanner, fax, copier.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Chief Seward noted that he requested that all Captains give information to Deputy Chief Esposito regarding the names of those who go above and beyond duty for an awards ceremony. All members are required to have the new patches applied to their uniforms by November 1st

and, to date, Chief Seward received a bill for only 23 members. Plans for the communication system upgrade are being worked on which will replace portable and mobile radios and install simulcast and microwave systems. It is hoped that this could be accomplished for \$500,000.00.

NEW BUSINESS: The Schedule for the Board Meeting dates for the year 2010 through January, 2011 were discussed and selected. Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee that the BOFC accept the dates as presented for the meetings to be held in 2010 through January, 2011. On roll call vote, all in favor. The pension statistics for the fiscal year 2008-2009 were distributed and discussed. Commissioner Blakeslee made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera to accept the 2008-2009 list of members making their pension. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Chief noted that there will be a home makeover for the Bode family and the Department will be asked to assist wherever possible. The Chief noted that extrication tools need to be replaced and wondered if the Board would approve the money in the equipment reserve to be used for this purpose. It would cost approximately \$71,000 for two sets of tools. After some discussion, the Board approved the purchase. Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee to approve the use of the money from the equipment reserve to purchase two new sets of tools to replace the older, outdated tools currently in use. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Clerk will forward a letter to the Town Manager requesting that the Town Council approve the purchase.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: The Town is seeking prices for insurance coverage and would include it in the Town's liability coverage. Captain Florio asked if background checks for new members could be streamlined. He was concerned that prospective new members sometimes have to wait months before getting clearance from the Police Department and then some lose interest in joining the Department.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: Chairman Civitello noted that the proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations will be forwarded to the Board prior to the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee that the BOFC adjourns to Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. for discussion on a personnel matter pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 1-200 (6)(A). Those present will be Chairman Civitello and Commissioners Blakeslee and DellaCamera, Chief Seward and at some point the Captains, Deputy Chief of Training Colangelo and Assistant Chief of Training Amatrudo and firefighter Mark Allis. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee that the BOFC reconvene to a public session at 11:30 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner Blakeslee and seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk