

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #1 FIREHOUSE

DECEMBER 6, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

OTHERS: Officers: Chief William Seward III, Fire Inspector John O'Brien, Captains John Florio and John Onofrio and Lieutenant Richard Lennon.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: None.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes from the November 1, 2007 could not be approved as there wasn't a quorum present from that meeting in attendance at this meeting.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for November was distributed at the meeting. There were 101 calls for November. Reports were also received and distributed from Deputy Chief Colangelo and District Chief Amatrudo.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Pension: Commissioner Tulli received notification that his pension request was approved. It was also noted that the additional car for the Fire Inspectors' use has been received, lettering is complete and it will be garaged inside at Company #4.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward distributed a memorandum to the Board regarding the Chief's report for the month of November that is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. The Chief informed the Board that portable radios with chargers were distributed to area Fire Departments that the Town works with in order to improve communications during multijurisdictional incidents. He updated the Board on new equipment that has been received – new smooth bore nozzles and the AED's. Training will be scheduled for the new AED's. The Chief thought it might be a good idea to place some of the older AED's in the Northford Ice Pavilion and the Sports Plex. St. Raphael's Hospital improved its security system by implementing electronic card keys for access to the Emergency Department and provided this Department with a set of card keys for the ambulances. A computer with two years of internet access for the emergency operations center has been secured through CT State Homeland Security.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Billing for the Fire Marshal duties regarding building plans, etc. will be discussed at the meeting in February as Deputy Chief Esposito couldn't attend this meeting. Billing for fire calls, i.e. motor vehicle accidents, house calls, etc. will be discussed at the January meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: The Chief distributed a memo regarding proposed changes to the Merit System regarding point requirements. He would like to implement a fire station standby system and felt that this change would assist some members in their ability to make their pension. There was some discussion on

the amount of credits that would be possible if a standby system is implemented in the firehouses. A system would need to be set up for the documentation of those signing up for four-hour shifts. Captain Florio spoke about the discrepancy of call volume between companies. Many of the calls occur during the daytime hours and many members can't make day calls. The issue was brought up about credit for standby if a call is received. Other changes discussed were that public service calls and non-emergency calls should be logged in as incident calls. Captain Onofrio agreed there should be some adjustments made for pension credits and spoke about rank points. He was also in favor of a pension credit bank. Commissioner LaBanca spoke in favor of shifts and felt that the regulations should be amended to include changes that the membership wants. Chairman Civitello stated that a special meeting should be held solely for discussion on pension changes after the Captains discuss changes with their members. Commissioner Tulli felt that one credit for a 24-hour time frame wasn't enough and stated that Cheshire recently changed their pension plan. One new change for Cheshire is that the more years in the department, the higher the rate of pension, encouraging longevity. It was noted that the house near Smith Library will be used for live fire training once the asbestos is removed. Chief Seward wanted to institute a company officer evaluation program that would be similar to promotional exam testing. He'll meet with the officers in January to explain the procedure that would also would meet OSHA requirements.

The proposed schedule of Board meetings was discussed for the coming year. Commissioner Tulli made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner LaBanca to accept the Schedule of Meeting Dates for 2008 through January of 2009 as proposed. On roll call vote, all in favor. A copy of the new Schedule of Meetings is attached to these Minutes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: None.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: Fire billing will be discussed at the January meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner Tulli and seconded Commissioner LaBanca to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk