

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #3 FIREHOUSE

FEBRUARY 7, 2008

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 and Commissioners James Blakeslee, Angelo Tosi and Joseph Tulli. Vice-Chairman Donald LaBanca was absent.

OTHERS: Officers: Chief William Seward III, Deputy Chief Anthony Esposito, Jr., Fire Inspector John O'Brien, Captains John Florio, John Onofrio and Laura Burich and Lieutenant Rich Lennon.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Onofrio requested that the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) approve his scheduled fundraisers. The door-to-door fundraising will begin at the end of April and the sale of Christmas trees, wreaths, etc. is scheduled for the end of November but a commitment was needed as soon as possible in order to obtain the trees. Commissioner Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Tulli that the BOFC approve the door-to-door fundraiser and sale of Christmas trees fundraiser for Company #3. On roll call vote, all in favor. Captain Florio then requested that the BOFC approve two comedy shows for Company #1 that are scheduled for April 5 and September 6th. Commissioner Tulli made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee that the BOFC approve the two scheduled comedy shows as fundraisers for Company #1. On roll call vote, all in favor.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Commissioner Tulli made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee that the BOFC approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 3, 2008. On roll call vote, three in favor and one abstention by Commissioner Tosi as he was absent from that meeting.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for January was distributed at the meeting. There were 118 calls for January. Reports were also received and distributed from Deputy Chiefs Colangelo and Esposito.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Pension: The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward distributed a memorandum to the Board regarding the Chief's report for the month of January that is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. The Chief read a letter from Chairman Civitello requesting his pension with 22 years of service. Commissioner Tulli made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee that the BOFC accept the request for active retiree status for Joseph Civitello. On roll call vote, three in favor and one abstention by Chairman Civitello. The Department has received delivery of fifty-five Scott units purchased with the 2006 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. Due to a savings of approximately \$7000 with trade-ins, the Chief has requested that spare cylinders be purchased. Discussions are ongoing for the regionalization of emergency communications between Branford, East Haven and North Branford. A Fire Act Grant application was filed by a West Haven Fire Chief on behalf of the NHASH team that will allow the

Department to utilize an identification system compatible with thirty towns in the state which is a better accountability system utilizing bar codes. The cost to the Town will be \$1,000.00. The Department's Standard Operating Guideline for Personnel Accountability and Emergency Evacuation has been revised and distributed. The new AED 1000s were placed into service and can also be used for children if the need arises.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Further information regarding Fire Marshal billing was distributed to the Board. Deputy Chief Esposito compiled information from the Fire Inspectors' office and distributed a spreadsheet showing various towns and their fees. The Board felt that more detailed figures should be computed applying the formula for New Milford to our figures as the fees were in the middle range of all the towns presented. Deputy Chief Esposito also had a sample ordinance that was used by New Milford and he will forward it to the Town Attorney for review and continue to work with the Fire Marshal's office on this project. Fire/rescue billing was also discussed and Deputy Chief Esposito will contact Tim Pelton for additional information that might impact the Board's decision.

NEW BUSINESS: The Fire Department Budget for 2008-2009 was previously distributed to the Board. There was some discussion and Chief Seward requested a change in line item 209, Motor Fuel & Lubricants. He would like to add 40 gallons/month to the gasoline figure to provide Deputy Chiefs Esposito and Colangelo with some compensation for the extensive use of their personal vehicles for department duties. He felt that 20 gallons per month for each Deputy Chief should be allowable. Commissioner Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee that the BOFC approve the Fire Department Operating Budget for the fiscal year 2008-2009 as presented. On roll call vote, all in favor. The next item of discussion was the Ambulance Budget. Commissioner Blakeslee made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Tosi that the BOFC approve the Ambulance Service Fund Budget for the fiscal year 2008-2009 as presented. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Fire Department's Equipment Reserve was then discussed. Chief Seward recommended that Rescue 11 (not Rescue 22) be replaced first since it has the most mileage and needs the most repairs. Commissioner Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee that the BOFC approve the Fire Department's Equipment Reserve for the fiscal year 2008-2009. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Board discussed the Capital Requests separately. The two Toughbooks laptops costing \$5000.00 each will be required by state mandates for the electronic reporting of EMS incident report forms. Commissioner Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Tulli that the BOFC approve the Capital Request Budget Item of Toughbooks for the fiscal year 2008-2009. On roll call vote, all in favor. Replacement of the Hurst Tools was discussed and Commissioner Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee that the BOFC approve the Capital Request Budget Item of the Replacement Hurst Tools for the fiscal year 2008-2009. On roll call vote, all in favor. The dispatch system was then discussed and it was noted that this upgrade is necessary to ensure public safety. Commissioner Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Tulli that the BOFC approve the Capital Request Budget Item of the Simulcast Dispatch System for \$1,000,000.00 for the fiscal year 2008-2009. On roll call vote, all in favor.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Florio inquired about the staffing of the Ambulance. He has received complaints that the shifts are not being given to Company 1 members and was informed that it was due to recent changes. Department members should be receiving shifts before non-NBFD personnel whenever possible. The opticom system was addressed and questions were raised as to whether the system was purchased several years ago. Deputy Chief Esposito informed the Board that the contractor for Rt. 80 provided nine free systems for the vehicles. Captain Florio asked about fireproof cabinets for the storage of records at the firehouse and Deputy Chief Esposito suggested he bring the records to the Town Hall where they could be safely stored. The Chief asked if anyone had suggestions for the Fire Act Grant Application. Water supply, Hurst tools and a

tanker truck were discussed and he will supply the Board with more information at the March meeting.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: Fire Marshal billing will be discussed further at the March meeting. An update on the grant applications will be provided.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner Tosi and seconded Commissioner Tulli to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk