

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #1 FIREHOUSE

APRIL 3, 2008

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 James Blakeslee and John Florio. Vice-Chairman Donald LaBanca and Commissioner Angelo Tosi were absent.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: None.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) could not approve the minutes from the February 7, 2008 meeting as a quorum from that meeting wasn't present at this meeting.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: A memo was received from Finance Director Anthony P. Esposito, Jr. regarding the meeting times for the Town's Pension Committee for Commissioners Tosi and Blakeslee, the appointees from the Board to the Town Pension Committee. A note will be forwarded to Commissioner Tosi to ascertain his preference.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Reports for February and March were distributed at the meeting. There were 135 calls for February and 142 calls for March. Reports were also received and distributed from Deputy Chiefs Colangelo and Esposito and District Chief Amatrudo. Deputy Chief Esposito suggested that the Knox Box Ordinance issue be brought before the Council once again. Presently, most business owners voluntarily agree to install the Knox box at their business, however an ordinance requiring it is necessary to enforce it.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Commissioner Florio will be added to the listings for Board Committees.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward distributed memorandums to the Board regarding the Chief's reports for the months of February and March that are attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. He appreciated the show of support from those members who attended the Town's Budget Workshops. He reported that the Council removed \$75,000 from the budget that was earmarked for the fire equipment reserve. Chief Seward noted that the State, as part of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Grant, will provide funding for a computer dedicated to Emergency Management operation and located at the Police Department. The Interspiro equipment will be collected and returned for \$7000 credit. Since there are additional Grant monies after purchase of the new Scott air packs, the Department will also be allowed to purchase 10 new pagers under the 2006 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) as well as CO/Smoke Detectors for qualified residents. Under the 2007 AFG, the Town will receive equipment to utilize a new accountability system. Revisions have been made to the dispatch procedures and a training session will be held prior to the implementation of the procedures.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Fire/Rescue billing was briefly discussed. Deputy Chief Esposito spoke to

Tim Pelton of Holdsworth-Pelton and it was determined that the volume of billing wouldn't be enough for them to get involved if they weren't already billing for ambulance calls. The net would be approximately \$10,000. Deputy Chief Esposito along with Inspector O'Brien felt that the revenue generated from the Fire Marshal billing could be \$16,000. He hasn't forwarded anything to the Town Attorney for approval yet but is working on coordinating issues with the Building Official. Another topic of discussion was the insertion of flyers in the newspaper for recruitment of volunteers. Various printing options will be explored.

NEW BUSINESS: Chief Seward is applying for three programs under the 2008 AFG as follows:

- 1) New extrication equipment on Rescue 11 and 22
- 2) PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for 12 members attending FFI training
- 3) Thermal Imaging Cameras Replacement (3)

If the grant is approved, the department could receive \$126,983 and the Town would be required to contribute \$6,349. According to the new NFPA standards, new equipment must be used on new apparatus. The Chief thanked Anthony and John O'Brien for assisting with information for the grant process. According to a new State statute, all apparatus must be inspected by a DMV certified mechanic.

Another issue under discussion was the billing service for the ambulance performed by Certified Ambulance Group (CAG). Communication from CAG is very limited. A meeting was held in February with CAG to discuss various issues with one issue being the amount of receivables due the Town. Various options for followup billing were discussed and CAG has not responded. Their three-year contract was discussed and it was noted that the Town must provide 30 days notice for termination of their services. The BOFC was in agreement that terminating their services should be considered and wondered if the Town would be required to go out to bid again. A motion was made by Commissioner Blakeslee and seconded by Commissioner Florio that the BOFC instruct the Chief to look into the termination of CAG. On roll call vote, all in favor.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Onofrio informed the Board of a Blood Drive being held at Company 3 on the morning of April 12th.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner Blakeslee and seconded by Commissioner Florio to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk