

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #2 FIREHOUSE

SEPTEMBER 7, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:43 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chief Seward requested that a moment of silence be observed to remember the anniversary of September 11th. He also wished a speedy recovery to NB Police Officer Dave Sheehan.

ROLL CALL: Chairman Joseph Civitello, Vice-Chairman Angelo Tosi and Commissioners Michael Manemeit and Joseph Tulli. Commissioner Donald LaBanca was absent.

OTHERS: Officers: Chief William Seward, District Chief Anthony Esposito, Fire Inspector John O'Brien, Captains John Florio, Ken Neubig, and John Onofrio, and Lieutenants Dennis Juhasz and John Rossotto.

The Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) recognized the following individuals in attendance that successfully completed the Firefighter I course: Steve Kasko and John Staziuk. The Board also recognized the recent MRT graduates in attendance under the direction of their lead instructor, Anthony Esposito: Gary Pedersen, Dan Rivellini, Mike Gerwien, Ryan Olson, Ken Neubig, Antonio Grandetti, Marc Jennette, Geoff DeMatteo and Paul Standish. Special note was made of Gary Pedersen as he received the highest score on the final exam.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Onofrio informed the BOFC of the following fundraisers scheduled for Company #3: a fried dough pizza event on September 8th; tag sale on September 10th; car cleaning fundraiser on September 23rd; and lobster dinner on October 14th. The Board approved the fundraisers.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: A motion was made by Commissioner Manemeit and seconded by Commissioner Tulli that the BOFC approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 6, 2006. On roll call vote, all in favor.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: Correspondence was received from the State regarding the mandatory training of the Fire Marshal and Inspectors. Chief Seward received the information on the annual EMT/Firefighter Mass on October 7th at 5:00 p.m. He suggested participation in the Durham Fire Department's 20th Anniversary Parade on October 14th. Branford's Chief Ahern is seeking a license for an additional ambulance as backup. Purchasing Assistant Michele Knockwood forwarded correspondence to the Chief regarding coverage for volunteers. Worker's compensation will cover the volunteers when in transit to a call and while at the call. Captain Florio raised the issue as to whether the volunteers are covered during training exercises. The Chief will check into that matter.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for August was distributed and discussed at the meeting. It was noted that there were 131 calls for the month. The Ambulance Activity Report for July was also distributed as well as a training report from Deputy Chief/Training Officer Colangelo.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Pension: Vice-Chairman Tosi reported on the meeting that was held with the Town Manager on August 29th regarding an increase in the pension plan. Also attending the meeting were Chairman Civitello, Chief Seward, District Chief Esposito, Councilors Wentworth, Candelora, and Bigelow and Chairman Ryan of the Pension Committee. It was felt that

they would support a raise in the pension plan from \$20 to \$22 per month, per year of credited service and then \$.50 per year increase. This must first be presented to the Pension Committee at their meeting in November and then, if approved, presented to the Town Council for their approval. It was also noted that the Town is not going to pay any energy bills for the firehouses until the leases are signed.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward distributed a memorandum to the Board regarding the Chief's report for the month of August that is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. It was noted that the final phase of the Fire Act Grant program will soon be completed. As of Friday, the keyless entry system will be complete. The mobile radio and fire ground communications system was awarded to Tactical Radio Communications of Guilford. All portables have been reprogrammed. A meeting was held with Vintech because of a situation that occurred in the department prompting immediate action regarding response to private calls. General orders regarding apparatus restrictions were discussed and dispatch should always be made aware of where the apparatus is.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was some discussion about pagers and it was noted that eight were repaired and twenty new pagers were ordered.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Chief Seward mentioned the outing scheduled for October 1st at the Polish American Club in West Haven to benefit a member's daughter, Shannon Richards, who was recently diagnosed with leukemia. Anyone wishing tickets should contact Chief Seward.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion regarding Executive Session was made by Commissioner Manemeit and seconded by Vice-Chairman Tosi. Be it hereby resolved that the BOFC adjourns to Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. for discussion on a personnel matter pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-200 (6)(A). Those present will be Chairman Civitello, Vice-Chairman Tosi, Commissioners Manemeit and Tulli and Chief Seward. On roll call vote, all in favor.

The following motion was made by Commissioner Tulli and seconded by Vice-Chairman Tosi. Be it hereby resolved that the BOFC returns to Open Session at 10:34 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner Manemeit and seconded by Vice-Chairman Tosi that the meeting of the BOFC adjourns at 10:35 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk