

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #3 FIREHOUSE

FEBRUARY 1, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

OTHERS: Officers: Chief William Seward, Deputy Chief Anthony P. Esposito, Jr., Deputy Chief/Training Officer Robert Colangelo, Fire Marshal Bert Bunnell, Captains John Florio, Ken Neubig and John Onofrio and Lieutenant Tom Hart.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: None.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: A motion was made by Commissioner LaBanca and seconded by Commissioner Tulli that the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 4, 2007. On roll call vote, all in favor.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for January was distributed and discussed at the meeting. It was noted that there were 137 calls for January. Reports were also received and distributed from Deputy Chief/Training Officer Colangelo and District Chief Amatrudo.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

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. It was noted that a separate tone has been installed for EMS incidents. Sensitivity training was conducted for Company 4 members. To comply with OSHA, an Organizational and Mission Statement has been prepared and provided for the Board's review. If funds are awarded for the 2006 Fire Act Grant Program, \$312,060 would be provided and the Town would have to provide the other \$15,603 to upgrade the department's self-contained breathing apparatus. The Board read the Organizational and Mission Statement. Commissioner Tulli made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner LaBanca that the BOFC accept the Organizational and Mission Statement for the Town of North Branford Fire Department. On roll call, all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The Budgets for the Fire Department were discussed. There is a 3% overall increase in most line items with a 5.08% increase due to the fuel oil and increase in pensions. The ISO rating and ways to improve it were discussed. The insurance premiums for commercial businesses would be decreased if the ISO rating was improved. Another possible improvement discussed would be to add a dispatcher. It was decided that any surplus in the budget this year would be used to improve the ISO rating. There was some discussion about requesting businesses to give money toward the improvement of the ISO rating as it would be beneficial to them. Fire Marshal Bunnell reminded the Board of the incident in Old Saybrook which resulted in legal issues because the businesses were asked to donate money to the

Fire Department. Commissioner LaBanca made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Tulli that the BOFC approve the Operating Budget for the Fire Department for the fiscal year 2007-2008 in the amount of \$467,554.00 with the stipulation that the fuel account will be increased if it's warranted. On roll call, all in favor. The Ambulance Budget was then discussed. Commissioner Tulli made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner LaBanca that the BOFC approve the Ambulance Operating Budget for the fiscal year 2007-2008 for \$442,653.00. On roll call, all in favor. The Equipment Reserve was then discussed. Commissioner LaBanca made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Tulli that the BOFC approve the Fire Department's Equipment Reserve for the fiscal year 2007-2008 with an Ending Balance of \$94,800.00. On roll call, all in favor. The Capital Budget items were then discussed. Commissioner Tulli made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaBanca, that the BOFC approve the Capital Budget Item of \$20,000.00 for the new Receiver Site in District #1 for the fiscal year 2007-2008. On roll call, all in favor. Commissioner LaBanca made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tulli, that the BOFC approve the Capital Budget Item of \$40,000.00 for the Replacement of the Automatic External Defibrillators for the Police and Fire Departments. On roll call, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: Recognition for the Fire Service Instructor Training participants were distributed to: Lieutenants Conway and Hart and firefighters LaFogg and Tschopp. Additional participants not in attendance were Foreman Don Cappelli, Fire Inspector John Zulowski and Lieutenant Rich Lennon. The Board offered their congratulations to all.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Florio noted that it was Chairman Civitello's birthday. Commissioner LaBanca stated that he remembered taking the Fire Services Instructor Course and it was very difficult. He commended all for their completion of the course. The Chief mentioned a fundraiser to take place on Saturday at Circle Lanes in East Haven for the Bloomquist Scholarship Fund and urged all to participate. A blood drive and fundraiser is scheduled for February 19th for Rick Chaterton's daughter, Alicia, who is undergoing major surgery.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: Chairman Civitello stated that the budget will have been discussed with the Town Manager by the next meeting. Commissioner LaBanca informed the Board that he will not be in attendance at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner LaBanca and seconded by Commissioner Tulli to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk