

# Town of North Branford

## Board of Fire Commissioners

### MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #1 FIREHOUSE

APRIL 5, 2007

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

**OTHERS:** Officers: Chief William Seward, Deputy Chief Anthony P. Esposito, Jr., Captains John Florio, Ken Neubig, John Onofrio and Thomas Rak, Lieutenants Richard Lennon and William Seward IV and Foreman Marc Jennette.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** None.

**READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** The minutes of the February meeting could not be approved as there wasn't a quorum present at this meeting for their approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Tulli, seconded by Vice-Chairman Tosi, that the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 1, 2007. On roll call, all in favor.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:** A thank you note was received from Fire Marshal Bunnell thanking the Board for the fruit basket sent during his recuperation from surgery.

**DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS:** The Fire Marshal's Report for March was distributed and discussed at the meeting. It was noted that there were 152 calls for March. Reports were also received and distributed from Deputy Chief/Training Officer Colangelo and District Chief Amatrudo. The ambulance report for February was distributed and the Chief noted that it is one month behind due to the scheduling of Board meetings on the first of the month. He noted that the one missed ambulance call that AMR took was due to everyone assisting at the structure fire.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Chairman Civitello reported that he changed several of the Committees and added Commissioner Blakeslee to several Committees. He asked if anyone had any problems with the changes.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF:** Chief Seward distributed a memorandum to the Board regarding the Chief's report for the month of March that is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. It was noted that the Department has two Scott packs on loan and two additional units will be provided for evaluation. The Chief thanked all who assisted at the numerous calls received during the heavy rains and winds affecting the public on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. He also reported on the allocations of the State Homeland Security Grant Program to each community. North Branford will receive \$6444 for Homeland Security and some monies will be made available to Public Works for additional traffic cones, signage and barriers.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** The Town Council will discuss the budget next Monday through Wednesday at the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The fundraiser for Company #1 was discussed. It will be a comedy show scheduled on April 28<sup>th</sup> at Bill Miller's. Chief Seward noted that Deputy Chief Colangelo was selected by the

Wallingford Fire Department to be appointed as a lieutenant. The Chief requested authorization from the Board to provide shirts for the Ambulance volunteers to increase their professional appearance. The shirts will have the department badge on them and the order would be for approximately 30 shirts. After some discussion, Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tulli, that the BOFC approve the purchase of shirts for the ambulance volunteers costing approximately \$400 from the ambulance fund. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Chief provided a copy of a DEP letter regarding a new program whereby the Town could possibly acquire excess property made available by the federal government. He stated that if the Fire Department is interested in receiving federal property, the Board must agree to the language of the agreement to participate in the program. After some discussion, a motion was made by Vice-Chairman Tosi, seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee, that the BOFC authorize the Chief to enter into an agreement for participation in the DEP Program. On roll call vote, all in favor. Possible user fees paid to the Town were discussed. Fire Inspector Zulawski compiled information from various towns that charge for plan reviews, inspections, burning permits, etc. If the Town agreed to charge fees, an ordinance would be required and any monies collected would go into the general fund revenue. Deputy Chief Esposito asked the Board if they would be interested in billing for services. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tulli, that the BOFC authorize Deputy Chief Esposito to research the issue of billing for services and report back to the Board. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** Deputy Chief Esposito stated that the Town Clerk found a 1956 document regarding the water holes in Town and he gave it to the Chief for possible framing. Captain Onofrio requested permission for his door-to-door fundraiser held annually in May. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Blakeslee, that the BOFC approve the annual door-to-door fundraising drive for Company #3. On roll call vote, all in favor. Captain Onofrio had some concerns about billing issues regarding claims made to a homeowner's policy and the homeowner's rates possibly increasing. He felt provisions would be needed prior to formalizing this issue.

**WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION:** Chairman Civitello stated that the Board should know the status of the Fire Department's Budget by the next meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen  
Board Clerk