

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #3 FIREHOUSE

JUNE 7, 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 and Commissioners Donald LaBanca and Joseph Tulli. Vice-Chairman Angelo Tosi and Commissioner James Blakeslee were absent.

OTHERS: Officers: Chief William Seward, Fire Inspector John O'Brien, and Captains John Florio and John Onofrio.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: None.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes of the May 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 Commissioner LaBanca, that the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 1, 2007. On roll call, all in favor.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: Chairman Civitello informed the Board that he received a copy of a request for an appeal hearing from a suspension.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for May was distributed and discussed at the meeting. It was noted that there were 113 calls for May. Reports were also received and distributed from Deputy Chiefs Colangelo and Esposito and District Chief Amatrudo. The ambulance report for May was distributed and the Chief noted that the three missed calls were due to the ambulance responding to other incidents at the same time as those calls and, in that case, AMR then responds.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Communications: Chairman Civitello noted that a letter was received from the Department of Public Health regarding the investigation into the ambulance being used without prior notification to dispatcher. The investigation showed no violation of State Statutes occurred. **Purchasing and Budget:** It was noted that the Town Council approved the budget even though the public did not approve it at the referendum.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward distributed a memorandum to the Board regarding the Chief's report for the month of May that is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. The Chief gave the Board an update on the communication system and noted that the sensitivity of the radio ID transponder system was adjusted and desktop radios are being installed in each station. The dispatcher can then speak directly to an individual company. The Chief has drafted a guideline for emergency response and operational procedure for bomb threats for which there have been two recently at the schools. He is awaiting the Police Chief's response prior to implementation. Commissioner LaBanca noted that some parents weren't pleased with the manner in which the bomb scares were handled according to a newspaper report. Chief Seward informed the Board that he would like North Branford to participate in a 2007 Fire Act Grant Regional Program which would make monies available for an ID badge system if awarded. The Town would only have to pay \$1000.00 if the region receives the grant. The majority of the remaining funds in the fiscal year's budget will be spent on hoses and updating all the fire extinguishers.

He also stated that his office is involved in some ongoing personnel issues.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: A hearing date has been scheduled for the appeal of a suspension on June 27, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ambulance Building Co. 4.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Captain Florio requested that the BOFC assist the department in acquiring a parcel of land near the Public Works Garage for a training facility for drills. He stated that the Companies would raise funds and establish a training facility. After some discussion, the Board encouraged Chief Seward to discuss the idea with the Town Manager. The Chief suggested that the interested parties should meet with him and draft a proposal to present to the Town Manager. The Chief received two letters regarding fire parades. He encouraged the department as a group to participate in the 100th Anniversary Madison parade on August 4th at 4:00 p.m.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: Commissioner LaBanca made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tulli, to defer the July and August Board meetings and only schedule a Special Meeting if necessary. On roll call vote, all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner LaBanca and seconded Commissioner Tulli to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk