

# Town of North Branford

## Board of Fire Commissioners

### MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #3

FEBRUARY 5, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**ROLL CALL:** Chairman Joseph Civitello, Vice Chairman Ed Prunier, Commissioners Kenneth Ash, Andrew Campion and Anthony DellaCamera.

**OTHERS:** Officers: Fire Chief William Seward, III, Deputy Chief Anthony P. Esposito, Jr., Deputy Chief/Training Officer Robert Colangelo, Deputy Fire Marshal John O'Brien, Captains Kevin Lyon, Ken Neubig and Gene Stabile, Lieutenants Corey Roberts and Steve Torino. **OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:** Mayor Anthony Candelora.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** Lt. Torino asked to revisit the stipend amount issue again as he has additional research on it. He requested that the Board increase the stipend. Deputy Chief Colangelo felt that any increase in the stipend amount should go according to one's position – i.e. officer ranking, in the department. The original \$1000 was according to a Public Act for abatement of property taxes. The Town agreed to make it a stipend as most of the members didn't own real estate and wouldn't have been able to take advantage of the full amount for taxes. Vice-Chairman Prunier made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Campion, that the BOFC request a raise in the stipend of 2% each year for a period of five years. On roll call vote, all in favor. Chief Seward informed the members that their individual company meetings are not public information unless they discuss issues relating to the entire department, i.e. budget.

**READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Commissioner Campion made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the Board approve the Minutes of the January 8, 2015 Meeting. On roll call vote, four in favor, one abstention by Vice-Chairman Prunier due to his absence.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS:** The Fire Marshal's Report for January listing 181 calls was distributed. Reports were distributed from Deputy Chief Esposito, Deputy Chief/Training Officer Colangelo and Assistant Chief of Training Amatrudo.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Pension: The Town's Pension Committee will meet Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> to vote on the pension multiplier increase.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF:** Chief Seward noted that there have been no changes regarding CMED operations. Another proposal will be discussed at the next meeting for CMED. The

department has approximately twenty structural firefighter helmets that are older than ten years that must be replaced according to NFPA Standards. The maintenance schedule for apparatus may be revised as Public Works is very busy during the winter months. The ambulance is back in service and the Chief recommended extending the warranty period or seeking reimbursement from International because of the number of times it has been out of service. The Merit Evaluation Committee has been formed and the Chief will schedule a meeting. Chairman Civitello encouraged the Chief to be sure that everyone who deserves an award receives an award. The Chief suggested a meeting with the Police Department regarding communications. There are issues with calls not properly dispatched and the fire department is not always being acknowledged by the dispatchers. He would like the Town Council to investigate the dispatch center. The Mayor agreed because he recently heard a call that was not properly dispatched. He suggested an Executive Session with the Town Council prior to the next Town Council meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner DellaCamera, seconded by Vice-Chairman Prunier, that a letter be sent to the Town Council to address the problems with the Communications Center and to request to be added to the agenda for the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting in an Executive Session. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** The Board was provided with an updated pension statistics listing. Three additional individuals were added to the list. Commissioner Campion made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Prunier, that the BOFC approve the revised pension statistics with the three additional individuals. On roll call vote, all in favor. Chief Seward advised the Board that the acting Chief Heffernan in Branford requested an updated mutual aid agreement between the towns and the Chief provided it to Branford. Chief Seward informed the Board that the department received a drone with video capability as a gift for providing backup fire service for a video.

The Board took a ten minute recess from 9:10 p.m. to 9:20 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The budgets for the Fire Department and Ambulance were discussed. There was a discussion about adding a dispatcher during the busiest times in the dispatch center. It was decided that the request for an additional dispatcher should be put in the Communications budget. A 2% increase in the part time wages line item was discussed. An additional \$13,000 for state mandated training was added to the professional development line item. Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Campion, that the BOFC approve the Fire Department Operating Budget for the fiscal year 2015-2016 in the amount of \$671,060 and recommend that it be presented to the Town Council. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Ambulance Service Fund was then discussed. Vice-Chairman Prunier made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ash, that the BOFC approve the Ambulance Service Fund budget for the fiscal year 2015-2016 as presented for \$636,899. On roll call vote, all in favor. The equipment reserve was discussed and it was decided to change the appropriation request from \$400,000 to \$250,000 for 2015-2016 and \$400,000 for the next year. The appropriation request for 2019-2020 would be changed to \$650,000 to accommodate the purchase of a new tower truck. Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ash, that the BOFC approve the Fire Department Equipment Reserve budget as adjusted for the years July, 2015 through June 30, 2020. On roll call vote, all in favor. Commissioner Ash made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Campion, that the BOFC approve the Ambulance Equipment Reserve as proposed for 2015-2020. On roll call vote, all in favor. There was a discussion about the capital requests

budget. The Chief proposed \$75,000 for a simulcast site in Saltonstall because of poor radio coverage in that area. He also proposed allocating \$338,000 for a fire training site. Deputy Chief Colangelo made a presentation to the Board regarding his research on steel training towers. It was also discussed that a possible lease agreement could be made to cover the cost. The Board felt the amount should be increased to \$350,000. It was also decided that the budget should request two generators at approximately \$50,000. This would increase the capital requests to \$475,000.00. Vice-Chairman Prunier made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the BOFC approve the Capital Requests Budget Items for the Fire Department for the fiscal year 2015-2016 in the amount of \$475,000. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** Lt. Torino inquired about the cable for the firehouses. It was noted that Company #2 changed their officer lineup and added a foreman – James Asmus, who is no longer captain of Company #4. Kevin Lyon is the new Company #4 Captain. As Captain, he requested that Company #4 be allowed to send a fundraising letter for training supplies. It was suggested that he add his request to the budget.

**WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Prunier, seconded by Commissioner Campion, that the BOFC adjourn the meeting at 11:10 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane B. Whalen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Diane B. Whalen, Board Clerk