

Town of North Branford

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #2 FIREHOUSE

JANUARY 5, 2012

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 Anthony DellaCamera and Ed Prunier. Commissioner Daniel Munro was absent.

OTHERS: Officers: Fire Chief William Seward, III, Deputy Chief Anthony Esposito, Jr., Deputy Chief/Training Officer Robert Colangelo, Assistant Training Officer Mark Amatrudo, Deputy Fire Marshal John O'Brien, Captains Laura Burich, John Florio, Ken Neubig and Gene Stabile, Lieutenants Richard Lennon, Joseph Manzi and John Rossotto, and Foremen Mark Candelli, Corey Roberts and Peter Stadolnik.

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES: Mayor Anthony Candelora.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Tosi and seconded by Commissioner Prunier that the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) appoint Joseph Civitello as Temporary Chairman. The motion passed with three in favor and one abstention by Joseph Civitello. Temporary Chairman Civitello called for nominations for Chairman and Commissioner Prunier nominated Joseph Civitello. No other nominations were made. Commissioner Prunier made a motion that was seconded by Vice-Chairman Tosi that the BOFC appoint Joseph Civitello as Chairman of the Board. Three in favor and one abstention by Joseph Civitello. The Clerk cast one ballot for Chairman Civitello. Chairman Civitello then called for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Commissioner DellaCamera nominated Angelo Tosi as Vice-Chairman. No other nominations were made. Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Prunier that the BOFC appoint Angelo Tosi as Vice-Chairman. Three in favor and one abstention by Angelo Tosi and the Clerk cast one ballot for Vice-Chairman Tosi. Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion that was seconded by Vice-Chairman Tosi that the BOFC reappoint Diane B. Whalen as Clerk of the Board. All in favor and the nominations were closed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion to amend the Agenda so that item #11a. New Business could be discussed prior to item #7 Departmental Officers' Reports in order to accommodate the speaker, Edward Boughton. Commissioner Prunier seconded the motion and on roll call, all in favor.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the BOFC approve the Minutes of the December 1, 2011 Meeting. On roll call, all in favor.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: A letter from Phyllis Dumphy regarding her retirement request was received and read. Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Prunier that the BOFC approve Phyllis Dumphy's retirement request for her pension. On roll call vote, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: Ed Boughton discussed the mechanical state of the apparatus. He informed the Board about the emergency vehicle service and maintenance. He discussed the cost schedule giving cost comparison for the apparatus. He noted that when the vehicles are 25 years or older, the

availability of parts is difficult. He spoke about the power steering pump for Rescue 11 and that it needs to be custom rebuilt. There was \$17,500 spent on equipment maintenance last year and \$40,000 was requested from contingency funds. There will be a similar issue during this year's budget. Approximately \$18,000 has already been spent and \$24,000 is projected. Mr. Boughton felt that \$3200-3500 is estimated per truck for repairs per year if the older vehicles aren't considered. The average yearly cost for repairs would be approximately \$40,000 barring any major issues. The Mayor stated that he would like to schedule a Saturday meeting for the Board and Council to discuss budget items. The Chief felt that using a town-based business for apparatus repairs worked in the Department's favor as trucks can be dropped off and picked up locally. It was suggested budgeting \$5000 per truck per year. The Board will prioritize the items needed and present it to the Council.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for December will be mailed with the minutes. Reports were received from Deputy Chief Anthony Esposito, Jr., Deputy Chief/Training Officer Robert Colangelo and Assistant Training Officer Mark Amatrudo. The Ambulance Activity Reports and alarm data for November and December were also distributed. The Chief emphasized the time and commitment that the EMT and FFII members give for the Department. Deputy Chief/Training Officer Colangelo spoke about some training exercises and noted that the Live Burn in December was a success and he thanked all for their participation.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Chairman Civitello informed the Board that he will keep the same Committees as currently. Pension: It was noted that the Town's Pension Committee meeting is scheduled for the second Wednesday in February at 4:00 p.m.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward's memorandum to the Board regarding his report dated January 5th was distributed and is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. He informed the Board about emergency management activities regarding the aftermath of Storm Irene and gave the Board an update on the Simulcast System. He is still waiting for a reply relating to the Commerce Drive site. The Chief noted that 49 members have been outfitted with new gear. He noted that he can't perform hose testing as there is no money available to purchase new hose when old hose fails. He has to follow OSHA regulations and replace failed hoses. He issued General Orders regarding standby ambulance coverage and communication procedures for confirmed structure fires. He gave a copy of the operating procedure to the Police Chief. He noted that certain dispatchers aren't following proper procedures and members aren't getting text pages. The Chief also distributed a summary of response activity for the previous five years with an analysis of the alarm data for the past year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The Chief gave the ambulance service rate schedule including the maximum allowable rates for ALS Level 2 of \$896 and \$547 for BLS.

NEW BUSINESS: There was a discussion on the proposed budget for 2012-2013. It was noted that there are allowances in the town code to assist the budgeting for the fire department. There will be an increase in the budget of \$3000.00 for four years in line item #314 for Company 2's sewer assessment.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: The standards for training in order to make a department member's pension was questioned. It was discussed that there is a mandatory number of calls but there are none for training/drills. Some members would like the number of training/drills to be mandatory. The Board will review the minimum requirements for OSHA in order to establish a minimum standard. It was noted that it would be a safety issue if all the members weren't trained on a regular basis.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: The budget will be discussed and the training issue will be discussed. The Board will meet with the Town Council after the February 2nd Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner

DellaCamera that the Board adjourn to Executive Session at 9:11 p.m. regarding a personnel matter pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 1-200 (6)(a) to include the Board, Chief Officers and Company Captains. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Vice-Chairman Tosi made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Prunier that the BOFC return to Open Session at 9:57 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner DellaCamera and seconded by Vice-Chairman Tosi to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen
Board Clerk