

# Town of North Branford

## Board of Fire Commissioners

### MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #3 FIREHOUSE

FEBRUARY 2, 2012

**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 and Commissioners Anthony DellaCamera and Ed Prunier. Vice-Chairman Angelo Tosi and Commissioner Daniel Munro were absent.

**OTHERS:** Officers: Fire Chief William Seward, III, Deputy Fire Marshal John O'Brien, Captains John Florio and Gene Stabile, Lieutenants Joseph Manzi and Steve Torino and Foreman Henry Rak.

**OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:** Town Council member Michael Doody.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** None.

**READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Prunier, that the BOFC approve the Minutes of the January 5, 2012 Meeting. On roll call, all in favor.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:** A notice regarding the next New Haven County Fire Commissioners Association Meeting was received. A copy of an email from Captain Florio was read regarding a choking incident at the high school. The thrust maneuver was performed by a guidance counselor and Captain Florio felt that those involved should be recognized before their peers at the high school. The Board agreed.

**DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS:** The Fire Marshal's Report for January was distributed to the Board listing 162 calls. Reports were received from Deputy Chief Anthony Esposito, Jr. and Deputy Chief/Training Officer Robert Colangelo. The alarm data for January was also distributed.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF:** Chief Seward's memorandum to the Board regarding his report dated February 2nd was distributed and is attached to the Minutes and made a part hereof. He informed the Board about the status of the emergency operations center and the apparatus DOT inspection and preventative maintenance program. The fire hydrant identification project is progressing and the Eagle Scout should have enough reflective markers to use for his project. He noted that the Commerce Drive site for the Simulcast system upgrade has been approved. It was also noted that rejection letters have been mailed regarding the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and the Chief is hopeful as the Department has not received a letter as of this date.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** The Chief informed the Board that he recently obtained a copy of the budget that was approved by the Town Council and many line items were zero. He will question the Town Manager regarding this issue. He spoke of the Fire Marshal's office and the amount of work that can't be completed due to time limitations. Deputy Fire Marshal O'Brien spoke to the Board about the number of inspections that should be completed on an annual basis but because of the office's limited hours and manpower, all of the inspections can't be done. Most inspections require numerous visits. Blasting and burning permits also take time. The Chief feels that, because of the part time staff, liability

concerns are raised. There was a discussion regarding increasing the hours of the Deputy Fire Marshal with money that has already been allocated as fire inspection services under line item #320 – other contractual.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was a discussion on the proposed budget for 2012-2013. The Fire Department Operating Budget for the fiscal year 2012-2013 was discussed and it was noted that line item #310 has a substantial increase due to the increase in maintenance costs for the apparatus. He has requested \$7000 for hose testing as the department is using some hoses that are twenty years old. The Chief felt that \$2400, which could be taken from the #320 - other contractual account, should be added to the Deputy Fire Marshal's salary under line item #102. The new total in line item #102 would be \$18,156.00. Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Prunier that the BOFC approve the Fire Department Operating Budget for the fiscal year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$599,357.00 and recommend that it be presented to the Town Council. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Equipment Reserve budget was discussed and the Chief is requesting that Rescue 11 be replaced. He stated that the Town Manager was in favor of a lease purchase. Chairman Civitello felt that the equipment reserve budget should be approved to determine how much the Council allocates and then the Board will decide how to spend it. Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Prunier that the BOFC approve the Equipment Reserve budget as presented. On roll call vote, all in favor. The capital requests budget items were then discussed. The Chief submitted the Breathing Air Compressor as a budget request although it was submitted in the Assistance to Firefighters Grant. If that grant is approved, the Chief can withdraw that request from the budget. The second capital request is for replacement of fire hose. Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Prunier that the BOFC approve the Capital Requests Budget items for the Fire Department for the fiscal year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$72,000.00 for the Breathing Air Compressor and \$34,000.00 for the replacement of fire hose. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Ambulance Service Fund budget was discussed and it was noted that it was similar to last year's budget. Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Prunier that the BOFC approve the Ambulance Service Fund Budget for the fiscal year 2012-2013 as presented. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Ambulance Equipment Reserve was then discussed. The Chief is recommending that the ambulance be remounted and felt that \$150,000 would be the cost for the new chassis and remount. Both ambulances were purchased in 2006 and can't be used if they are ten years old or more. Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Prunier that the BOFC approve the Ambulance Equipment Reserve as proposed. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** None.

**WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Commissioner Prunier and seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen  
Board Clerk