

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #2

JANUARY 7, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

OTHERS: Officers: Fire Chief William Seward, III, Deputy Chief Anthony Esposito, Assistant Chief of Training Mark Amatruodo, Fire Marshal Bert Bunnell, Deputy Fire Marshal John O'Brien, Captains Kevin Lyon, Ken Neubig and Gene Stabile, Lieutenants Corey Roberts, Tom Hart and Steve Torino, Foreman Jim Asmus, and Fire Police Ed Doody.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: Vice-Chairman Prunier nominated Joseph Civitello as Temporary Chairman which was seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera. On roll call vote, four in favor and one abstention by Commissioner Civitello. Temporary Chairman Civitello called for nominations for Chairman and Commissioner DellaCamera nominated Joseph Civitello. Commissioner Ash nominated Commissioner Prunier as Chairman which was seconded by Commissioner Campion. On roll call, four in favor and one abstention by Commissioner Prunier. Commissioner Ash made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Campion nominating Joseph Civitello as Vice-Chairman. No other nominations for Vice Chairman were received. On roll call vote, four in favor and one abstention by Joseph Civitello. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion that was seconded by Chairman Prunier that the BOFC nominate Diane B. Whalen as clerk. On roll call vote, all in favor.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: None.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the Board approve the Minutes of the December 3, 2015 Regular Meeting. On roll call, all in favor.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for December was distributed listing 130 calls and the yearly report for 2015 was also distributed listing 1956 calls. Reports were distributed from Deputy Chiefs Esposito and Colangelo. The report from Assistant Chief of Training Amatruodo will be emailed to the Board as it wasn't printed for the meeting.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward's report was distributed for the month of December, 2015. He informed the Board that four individuals will be going to view Tanker 3. There has been no signed agreement with MEDCOM yet. Chief Seward discussed Tower 1 and the fact that the Board decided to take it out of service at the last meeting. He stated that the UL inspector conducted all but the 1000 lb. test on the bucket on November 11th and did not authorize it to be taken out of service. Repairs were scheduled to be made. The Chief has no records prior to 2004 on the aerial testing and he stated that no certificate of compliance was ever issued. He didn't feel that it was a safety issue or

he would have taken it out of service. He stated that the UL inspector has since tested the bucket and it has passed on December 22nd with all the welds done. The Board informed the Chief that they had just been made aware on the night of the meeting that Tower 1 needed welds. Chairman Prunier felt that the 1000 lb. test should have been performed on the bucket. The Chief also noted that Company #1 just gave him a book that stated that any work to be performed on the Tower truck should be done by E-1. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera that the aerial should be put back in service. On roll call vote, all in favor. The issue of the Fire Marshal's vehicle was discussed and Fire Marshal Bunnell noted that it requires major repairs. The police department is retiring a vehicle that could be painted for \$500 and used for the Fire Marshal. The Chief also recommended that one vehicle be purchased for the Fire Marshal's office when the budget is submitted. He feels that the training facility will be completed in approximately one month. He noted that flow testing was conducted on all self-contained breathing apparatus and they passed the tests. Regarding the previous failure of the 911 system, the Chief requested that the State provide the cause of the failure. The State recommended routine testing of the 911 system. North Haven is the backup in case of our system failure but they can't dispatch this department. They would automatically direct AMR to respond. Guilford or East Haven could dispatch this department currently. It would cost approximately \$3600 to provide equipment to North Haven to enable them to dispatch NB. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ash, to authorize Chief Seward to purchase the equipment and have it installed in North Haven for dispatching our department if necessary. On roll call vote, all in favor. Chief Seward has not been contacted by the police department to do training for dispatchers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Chief Seward noted that the minimum qualifications for company officers will be discussed at the February Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: The Chief will be conducting department officers' meetings quarterly prior to the scheduled monthly Board meeting and taking attendance. He is completing a request for the 2015 Assistance to Firefighters Grant for communications upgrades. He is having iPads installed on the Engines in conjunction with 40" monitors in each station which will provide real time CAD information as well as hydrant maps. He is implementing a community risk reduction program which will identify target hazard buildings and develop pre-fire plans for them. Assistant Chief of Training Amatrudo spoke about officer training and making it more available and diverse for officers. OSHA requires separate training for officers. Chief Seward notified the Board that he will not sign the station use forms because of liability issues. He suggested that the Board address the Town Code with the new attorney, the Town Manager and the Risk Manager and the members who sign the leases for the fire houses. The Chief read the portion of the Town Code that states that the Board has control of all the equipment, apparatus, land and buildings. The buildings are privately owned, not town-owned. Mayor Doody is the appointed liaison to the Board but was unable to attend this meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: It was noted that the Explorers have scheduled a pancake breakfast at Company #1 on Sunday, January 17th. Deputy Fire Marshal informed the Board that he attended the Christmas Tree lighting and there was no outside lighting. There was a petting zoo outside with many people attending and he wanted to use the trucks to light up the area but was told that he couldn't. It was noted that Company #1 was supposed to be aware of this event and should have provided lighting. Chairman Prunier told Lt. Torino that Park & Rec should attend a BOFC meeting in the future if they wish to use any of the firehouses. Chief Seward informed the Board that 66.1% of the funds have been expended in the budget to date.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: Deputy Chief Esposito will provide a printout on the current pension statistics for the next meeting in February.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Civitello, seconded by Commissioner Campion, that the BOFC adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen, Board Clerk