

# TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

## Board of Fire Commissioners

### MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #3

FEBRUARY 4, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Prunier called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Chief Seward asked for a moment of silence to remember Ed Amatrudo, former Company #1 Captain, who recently passed.

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

**OTHERS:** Officers: Fire Chief William Seward, III, Deputy Chief Anthony Esposito, Deputy Fire Marshal John O'Brien, Captains Kevin Lyon, Ken Neubig and Gene Stabile, Lieutenants Jason Conway and Steve Torino. Other Interested Parties: Town Manager Michael Paulhus and Police Commissioner David Palumbo.

Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ash, that the BOFC amend the Agenda to include item #9A Insurance under item #9 Unfinished Business and move it to before item #3 Public Hearings and Comments. On roll call vote, all in favor.

There was a lengthy discussion with Town Manager Paulhus regarding the Town's insurance policy. He informed the Board that all the vehicles were covered with 100% replacement value. The Town would like an inventory that includes a description of all equipment with high values. Officially sanctioned events held at the firehouses are covered by the policy. Coverage of outside events, such as family events, birthday parties, etc. was questioned. The members felt that these events should be covered and a discussion ensued. There are some gray areas that need to be worked out. The leases of the buildings are between the individual companies and the Town. If someone other than a member will be using the building, they should make contact with the Town Manager and Risk Manager. Chief Seward asked that Town Manager Paulhus forward a letter to the BOFC explaining the insurance coverage for the department. The individual companies should continue to notify the Board prior to a planned event.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** Commissioner Campion praised the Fire Marshal's office for installing a smoke detector for an elderly couple. Lt. Torino mentioned dispatch issues. Chief Seward reiterated that if a call is improperly dispatched and a Company not dispatched feels it should respond, then respond to it.

**READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Campion, that the Board approve the Minutes of the January 7, 2016 Regular Meeting. On roll call, all in favor.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:** A letter was read from Charles Miller, Jr. requesting active retiree status effective November 1, 2015. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the Board approve Charles Miller's request to active retiree status with 27 years of service. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS:** The Fire Marshal's Report for January was distributed listing 148 calls. Reports were distributed from Deputy Chiefs Esposito and Colangelo and Assistant Chief of Training Amatrudo.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:** The next Pension Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Deputy Chief Esposito distributed the six month pension statistics which were discussed. Questions were raised regarding members who missed pension points due to training. The Board felt that each case should be reviewed individually. Military issues are designated in the policy.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF:** Chief Seward's report was distributed for the month of January, 2016. He informed the Board that the inspection to view Tanker 3 occurred. It should be operational by mid-April after training, etc. There has been no signed agreement with MEDCOM yet. Once signed, it is in effect until June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Chief would like to propose adding an additional engineer to the budget. He noted the fire training facility should be completed by mid-February and a meeting will be held on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. The equipment that was purchased for North Haven that would enable them to dispatch our department will be installed shortly after programming is completed. There was an Active Shooter exercise at the North Haven campus of Quinnipiac which the Chief and Deputy Chief attended. He felt that the exercise was not beneficial. The Chief submitted the 2015 AFG application requesting funds for portable radios, mobile repeaters and iPads. The request is for \$182,585 which includes a contribution of local funds of \$8,694.00. The Chief did receive a reply to schedule training sessions for the dispatchers. Police Commissioner David Palumbo advised the Board that a new Board of Police Commissioners has been selected and he is hopeful that an ongoing dialog between the two Chiefs will result. He praised Chief Seward and would like transparency between the Boards, working hand in hand. The BOFC and Chief were appreciative and look forward to a new relationship.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** It was decided that a discussion regarding the pension should be held. A discussion regarding a member who did not receive his pension will be added to the next agenda. Chief Seward noted that there is a meeting scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Wallingford Police Department to review the regional dispatch systems between Wallingford, North Haven, Cheshire and North Branford departments.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Town is requesting two members each from the Boards of Fire Commissioners and Police Commissioners for the Emergency Communications Committee. The two members on the Board's Communications Committee, Commissioners Campion and DellaCamera, will be appointed. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ash, that Commissioners Campion and DellaCamera be appointed to the newly formed Communications Committee. On roll call vote, three in favor and two abstentions by Commissioners Campion and DellaCamera. A letter will be forwarded to the Town Council.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** Lt. Torino suggested that the Board form a Safety committee. It was decided to add this item to the next Agenda. Chief Seward noted that the budget presentations to the Council will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Deputy Chief Esposito asked if the Board would like to have a Chaplain. The Reverend from the Zion Church indicated that she was interested. It was decided that Deputy Chief Esposito would invite her to the next meeting. The Chief praised the fast response to the structure fire on Sea Hill Road. The garage fire was extinguished and there was no extension into the house. There were 42 people on scene and everyone did a great job.

**WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Civitello, seconded by Commissioner Campion, that the BOFC adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen, Board Clerk