

# TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

## Board of Fire Commissioners

### MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #2

MAY 5, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Prunier called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**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, Assistant Chief of Training Mark Amatrudo, Deputy Fire Marshal John O'Brien, Captains Richard Lennon, Kevin Lyon, Ken Neubig and Gene Stabile, Fire Police Captain Edmund Doody, Jr., Lieutenants Corey Roberts and Steve Torino. Other Interested Parties: Mayor Michael Doody, Council liaison and Town Manager Michael Paulhus.

Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, to amend the Agenda to include item 10c Discussion and Action re: Town Planning Goals and to discuss the item prior to Public Hearings and Comments. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION RE: TOWN PLANNING GOALS:** Town Manager Paulhus addressed the BOFC regarding future plans for the Town and the Fire Department. He informed the Board that the Committee was looking into the feasibility of renovating the police department and possibly a new high school. He asked for the Board's feedback on whether they felt that the police department building should be enlarged to incorporate the ambulance and fire department offices. There was a discussion on how this might be accomplished and why it would be beneficial for public safety reasons. There are different issues to be decided but moving the ambulance to a central location in the town would benefit the public. Any vacated buildings could then be sold and taxed on a regular basis. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Campion, that the BOFC is in favor of relocating the ambulance to a central location, which would result in a better response time for calls in the North Branford end of town. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Vice-Chairman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the BOFC amend the Agenda and move item 10a Discussion and Action re: Town Vehicle Policy for a discussion with the Town Manager. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION RE: TOWN VEHICLE POLICY:** It was noted that fire apparatus is exempt from CDL requirements. The Town's and the Board's policies were discussed. Questions were raised as to whether Item #1A of the Town's policy applies to the fire department since they must be available to respond 24/7. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Campion, to approve the Town's Vehicle Use Policy. The motion was tabled as it was decided to wait for clarification from the Town Manager as to whether it applies to the Fire Chief.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** Captain Stabile invited the Board and Clerk to Co. #3 Installation Dinner on May 16<sup>th</sup>. They will also have a fried dough pizza event on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Chairman Prunier wished to clarify his previous request to receive notification when the fire training facility is to be used. He only wanted to know the schedule

in case the Board members would like to view the live training, not for the purposes of being in control of the schedule. Commissioner Campion made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Civitello, that the Board approve the Minutes of the March 3, 2016 Regular Meeting. On roll call vote, four in favor, one abstention by Commissioner DellaCamera due to his absence.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS:** The Fire Marshal's Report for March was previously mailed and the April report was distributed listing 149 calls. Reports were distributed from Deputy Chiefs Esposito and Colangelo. Deputy Chief Esposito informed the Board about Edward Smith Heroes Night and noted that the event includes a discussion about fire safety and demonstrations and a fire truck visit scheduled for July 12<sup>th</sup>. A similar event will be scheduled for the Atwater Library. He noted that a wellness day will be held at the Intermediate School on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. It will include fire department personnel volunteering their own time and bringing the ambulance and information about recruitment.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Pension: There will be a Pension Committee meeting next Wednesday. Communications: The Communications Committee met and discussed the possibility of combining a dispatch center with Wallingford. Next week they will have a similar discussion with Branford officials. Purchasing and Budget: There is still a possibility of cuts to the Town's budget and the Council may make some changes but the Chief asked that if they do make a cut, that they cut a dollar amount and not target specific line items.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF:** Chief Seward's report was distributed for the month of April, 2016. He informed the Board that Tanker 3 is now in service with six members currently qualified to operate it and additional personnel soon to be qualified. Regarding MEDCOM, the Chief noted that AMR doesn't guarantee service. It was discussed that if a department has a transport license they have to send a transport vehicle. The Chief would like to know that there is a first responder on scene prior to dispatching an ambulance. He informed the Board that approximately \$19,832 is overspent on various accounts and approximately \$11,554 is available for the remainder of the fiscal year. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the BOFC authorize the Chief to make the necessary transfers to cover the over-expended accounts. On roll call vote, all in favor. He distributed a revision of the Department's Organizational Chart and introduced John McFaland as a new Vintech Manager along with Jason Mota. John introduced himself to the Board and noted that he was with AMR for over 20 years and a New Haven firefighter. The Chief was asked by the Town as to whether or not the department wanted a contract for generator maintenance. After some discussion, the Board did not wish to have a maintenance contract with TriState. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the Board doesn't accept TriState to perform maintenance on the generators. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** The budget continues to be discussed. The date for the dedication of the training facility has to be decided upon.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion and Action re: Officer Training. Assistant Chief of Training Amatrudo noted that he would like more officers to attend training classes. A new program consisting of online training and, several times a year, live training will begin July 1<sup>st</sup>. A discussion ensued about training qualifications on different apparatus. The number of hours required for training on certain apparatus prior to being qualified and whether or not the trainee could drive during an emergency call were discussed. It was noted that dropbox has information available for the officers' use. Previously, the DMV tested for the 2Q endorsement on the license but now Lt. Torino and Captain Stabile are qualified to perform the test. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the Board authorize Steve Torino and Gene Stabile to be the DMV designees for the 2Q endorsement testing. On roll call vote, all in favor. Chief Seward noted that if we were to

regionalize dispatch with Branford, the equipment would remain where it is currently located and a connection would have to be made. A question was raised about what to do with Rescue 22 when it is out of service and that will be decided at a later date.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** Lt. Torino informed the Board that Co. 3 will be partnering with Park & Rec to fundraise on the cow chip raffle.

**WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION:** The Memorial Day Parade will take place in Northford.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen, Board Clerk