

# TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

## Board of Fire Commissioners

### MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #1

AUGUST 4, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Prunier called the meeting to order at 7:34 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 Kevin Lyon and Gene Stabile, Lieutenants Jason Conway, Thomas Hart, Corey Roberts and Steve Torino.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** Lt. Torino requested the Board's permission to create a website for the fire department. It was discussed and agreed that it would be a good tool to market the fire department and could contain a training calendar, mission statement, general information, member recruitment information, etc. The Board and Chief stated that it would need to be maintained and kept up to date. Lt. Torino volunteered to take responsibility for it and to submit the information for the Chief and/or Board to review prior to posting. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Civitello and seconded by Commissioner Campion to allow Lt. Torino to set up the NBFD website. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Civitello, that the Board approve the Minutes of the June 2, 2016 Regular Meeting. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:** A thank you letter from Rev. Lucy LaRocca was read regarding the quick response of the fire department and the care given to removing the religious items from harm during the Church fire. A thank you letter was received from Meghan Rusczyk, NBIS Wellness Day Committee Chair, for all the time and services provided by fire department personnel for their wellness day. Park & Rec also sent a flyer thanking everyone for their participation in the Touch-a-Truck. Rev. LaRocca would like to have a picnic for all the members and their families on September 11<sup>th</sup> to thank them for their service to the Town.

**DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS:** The Fire Marshal's Report for July was distributed listing 179 calls. Reports were distributed from Deputy Chiefs Esposito and Colangelo and Assistant Chief of Training Amatrudo. Assistant Chief of Training Amatrudo gave a presentation of the online officer training program currently available. This program can be customized and reports would be generated to include those who take the courses and those completing the course. It is a requirement of OSHA and there is no cost to the individual members.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Communications: The issues concerning the regionalization of the dispatch center with Branford are being discussed and worked on. Pension: There is a meeting scheduled for next Wednesday. Transportation: Chief Seward notified the BOFC that no one can obtain a permit to use water hydrants. The only access to the hydrants would be fire department personnel. Rescue 22 should be delivered back to the department Friday. The Chief asked what the BOFC would like to do with the 1989 Rescue 22. Commissioner DellaCamera made a

motion, seconded by Commissioner Ash, that the BOFC deem the 1989 Rescue 22 surplus equipment when it is taken out of service. On roll call vote, all in favor. Commissioner Campion made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Civitello, that the BOFC authorizes "Help U Sell Firetrucks" to market the Department's 1989 GMC Rescue. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Chief requested approval for various transfers in the budget totaling \$22240.00 to cover overages. The transfers would be from account #101-4220: \$7000 from line item 208, \$2300 from line item 209, \$1950 from line item 302 and \$10990 from line item 310. The transfers would be to Account #101-4220: \$2925 to line item 102, \$15000 to line item 202, \$400 to line item 210, \$710 to line item 301, \$505 to line item 312 and \$2700 to line item 403. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Campion, that the BOFC approve the transfer requests by the Chief. On roll call vote, all in favor. Ambulance: The Town Attorney wrote a letter to AEV regarding the issues with the ambulance. The Chief received a letter from Counsel for the REV group stating that AEV will not pay and hasn't paid for the repairs to the ambulance. The ambulance is not covered under the lemon law since the law doesn't apply to emergency vehicles.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF:** Chief Seward's report dated August 1, 2016 was distributed to the Board. He gave an update on Rescue 22. He spoke about MEDCOM and the fact that they would like a ten year commitment. The BOFC questioned why the Town is still using MEDCOM since there are issues with service. A motion was made by Commissioner Campion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, directing the Chief to write a letter to the Town Manager expressing the department's displeasure with the daily operations of MEDCOM. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Chief discussed an issue with the Reeds Gap Road simulcast site wherein wires were removed from the radio equipment. He would like the issue investigated. He noted that the department personnel did a great job with the Zion Church fire and the double fatality on Rt. 80 recently. He asked that Co. 3 fill the 10,000 gallon underground water tank in Northford.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was a discussion about the online training program. The Chief requested that some of the apparatus be renumbered. He originally felt cars 7 and 71 should be changed to FM -1 and FM-2 but he eliminated those since dispatching could be an issue. He would like Rescue 1 and 2 to be changed to Emergency 1 and 2, respectively, and Rescues 11 and 22 to be changed to Rescue 1 and 2, respectively. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ash, to change the Rescue designations. On roll call vote, all in favor. The department budget has approximately \$20,000 remaining and the Chief suggested purchasing a utility vehicle which could help move patients over rough terrain, assist with emergencies in the woods, etc. It would have a built-in transport system and a pump. After some discussion, it was agreed that other items should be purchased with the remaining funds and possibly this vehicle could be purchased with the money received from the sale of the 1989 Rescue truck. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Civitello, seconded by Commissioner Ash, to give \$5000.00 to the Fire Marshal's office for the purchase of smoke and CO detectors and the remaining \$15000.00 for purchasing SCBA cylinders. On roll call vote, all in favor. The report from Comstar, regarding the uncollectible ambulance billing funds amounting to approximately \$700,000, was also discussed.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** Lt. Torino inquired as to the Board's choice for the name of the website since he has multiple domain names available. It was agreed that it should be called NorthBranfordFireDepartment.com. The Chief stated that all shifts are covered for the Potato Festival. Deputy Chief Esposito thanked all the members who gave their time for the numerous community events like the Touch-A-Truck, Clear Lake parade, NBIS Wellness Day, and Heroes Day at Atwater and Smith Libraries.

**WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Civitello, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the BOFC adjourn the meeting at 10:16 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen, Board Clerk