

# TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

## Board of Fire Commissioners

### MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #2

JANUARY 5, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Prunier called the meeting to order at 7:37 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, Deputy Chief of Training Robert Colangelo, Assistant Chief/Training Officer Mark Amatrudo, Deputy Fire Marshal John O'Brien, Captains Jason Conway, Ken Neubig, Gene Stabile, and Kevin Lyon, Lieutenants Tom Hart, Corey Roberts and Steve Torino and Foremen Kyle Conklin and Alex Shamp. COUNCIL LIAISON: Mayor Michael Doody.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** Lt. Torino asked that each company submit a brief history of their company for the new website. He would also like the Board to submit information.

**READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Commissioner Campion made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Civitello, that the Board approve the Minutes of the December 1, 2016 Regular Meeting. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS:** The Fire Marshal's Report for December and the yearly report were distributed listing 167 calls and 1887 calls respectively. Reports were received and distributed from Deputy Chiefs Esposito and Colangelo and Assistant Chief/Training Officer Amatrudo.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Communications: The study for regionalization is still being conducted by the Town.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF:** Chief Seward's report dated January 4, 2017 was distributed to the Board. The Chief supplied the Board with a copy of the Schedule of Maximum Allowable Rates for Ambulance service for 2017. He was required to nominate open burning officials in town and those are Fire Marshal Bunnell, Deputy Fire Marshal O'Brien and Building Official Tom Cowell. The oath of office was administered to the fire police and the DOT annual inspections by EJ Boughton are being performed. There are still issues with MEDCOM and the Chief recommended that the Town not sign with them and, instead, possibly use Valley Shore Communications. Valley Shore has good coverage throughout the town with their radio communications. The next meeting to discuss regionalization is scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. He is concerned that there is no oversight to monitor the dispatchers relating to EMS and the Police Department is responsible for quality assurance.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** The sale of the Rescue truck was discussed and it was noted that the sale fell through. The Chief informed the members that notice must be given to the Chief and Deputy Chief Esposito whenever work is scheduled to be done on any apparatus to make them aware of when the vehicle will be out of service.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Management of Data Collection on Backup Servers: The Chief informed the Board that the backup data for the police and fire departments is stored on servers in a small room at the police department. He is concerned that if anything were to happen to the servers in that room, then the data would be lost. He had asked a representative from the police department to attend this meeting but no one was able to attend. There was a previous discussion about having the backup data stored in a police department in another town due to the sensitive data. Deputy Chief Esposito discussed using the ambulance building as there is a drop already in place, in a secured area, to put a backup server for the fire department data. He would check into whether or not the data from the two departments could be separated so the police data could be stored in a police department out of town if they wish. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the Board requests the data backup server be put in the ambulance building using the existing line and requests that a price for that service be available at the next meeting. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Chief also brought up the issue of applications for the department and noted that, as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, employers can't request criminal history. He did check with the Town Attorney who felt that it didn't apply to the fire department but he would check into it further. Background checks will continue to be conducted and Chief Seward wanted the Board's input about background checks that indicate misdemeanor convictions. Until a definitive answer is received from the Town Attorney, a moratorium has been placed on new applicants.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** A question was raised as to whether it would be beneficial to have our own EMS supervisor instead of Vintech. The Chief didn't recommend it. A supervisor would have to work 24/7, if that were the case, and Vintech does guarantee a paramedic on all shifts. It was noted that the department's volunteers are taking many shifts and they are paid on a pay per call basis as opposed to Vintech's hourly rate charge for EMTs.

**WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION:** Revised pension statistics will be submitted at the February meeting as well as the budgets for 2017-2018.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Civitello, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the BOFC adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen, Board Clerk