

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #3

FEBRUARY 2, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Prunier called the meeting to order at 7:36 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, Deputy Fire Marshal John O'Brien, Captains Jason Conway, Ken Neubig, and Gene Stabile, Lieutenants Corey Roberts and Steve Torino and Foreman Kyle Conklin.
COUNCIL LIAISON: Mayor Michael Doody.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: Lt. Torino gave the Board a preview of his newly designed website for the fire department. He asked for feedback and to be able to keep his name as the designer of the website. The Board was impressed by the website and approved of it and would like him to continue to be responsible for it.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Civitello, that the Board approve the Minutes of the January 5, 2017 Regular Meeting. On roll call vote, all in favor.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Fire Marshal's Report for January was distributed listing 185 calls. Reports were received and distributed from Deputy Chiefs Esposito and Colangelo and Assistant Chief/Training Officer Amatrudo. The training facility utilization report for the period from June 27, 2016 through the end of February, 2017 lists 1071 man hours. The Board was supplied with a listing of revised pension statistics. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the BOFC approves the revised listing of the pension statistics showing the addition of two people. On roll call vote, all in favor.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Communications: There is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 8th. Pension: There is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 8th.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Chief Seward's report dated February 1, 2017 was distributed to the Board. The Chief informed the Board that Tower 1 will be out of service for approximately one week due to regularly scheduled maintenance as well as issues with the brakes. He had questions about the dispatcher regarding member safety. He noted that standard operating procedure is for the dispatcher to call on scene every ten minutes during a call to be sure everyone is ok.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: A discussion ensued about the dispatch center and the fact that there is only one dispatcher on at a time. The Public Safety Communications Committee recommended that the fire and police departments have a discussion about the issues. The Chief recommended that the Board do what's best for the Town as public safety is the number one issue. A chart detailing the

benefits of consolidation vs. maintaining the dispatch center in town was provided to the Board and discussed. Deputy Chief Esposito discussed the breakdown of costs involved between shared costs with Branford vs. a second dispatcher in town 24/7. The town's operation is ineffective and needs to be changed. The Mayor stated that the Council is waiting to hear from the union. The approximate costs to hire a second dispatcher in town would be \$550,000, as opposed to consolidation with Branford and hiring part-timers for \$160,000 to avoid the dark police station issue or, consolidation and hiring a retired police officer at \$250,000. Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Civitello, that the BOFC recommends to the Town's Public Safety Communications Committee that public safety dispatching services be consolidated with the Town of Branford and hire a part-timer 24/7 for the North Branford Police Department. On roll call vote, all in favor.

The Board took a brief intermission.

NEW BUSINESS: The fire department budget was discussed and there weren't many changes from last year's budget. The changes were contractual obligations and the pension multiplier increase. Overall, there was an increase of \$38,252.00 or 5.55%. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the BOFC approve the Fire Department Operating Budget for the fiscal year 2017-18 in the amount of \$727,798 and recommend that it be presented to the Town Council. On roll call vote, all in favor. The equipment reserve was then discussed. Commissioner Campion made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ash, that the Board approve the Fire Department Equipment Reserve Budget as presented. On roll call vote, all in favor. The capital projects requests consisting of a generator for Co. #1 at a cost of \$60,000, replacement of SCBA cylinders in the amount of \$34,000, and a repeater site for Saltonstall Ridge of \$104,500 were discussed. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Campion that the BOFC approve the Capital Requests Budget Items for the Fire Department for the fiscal year 2017-18 in the amount of \$198,500.00. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Ambulance Service Fund was discussed. There was a discussion about being paid per shift at Co. 4. Commissioner Ash made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Campion, that the BOFC approves the Ambulance Service Fund Budget for the fiscal year 2017-18 as amended. On roll call vote, all in favor. The equipment reserve for the ambulance was then discussed. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the BOFC approve the Ambulance Equipment Reserve as proposed. On roll call vote, all in favor.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS: The Chief noted that he will be out of town for the Town Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday when the ordinances being proposed by the Fire Department will be discussed. All departments were tasked with determining ways that money could be generated for the Town. The Board also discussed the issue of sending our paramedic out of town for a priority 2 call for mutual aid. Commissioner Ash made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Campion, that if a non-emergency call for the ambulance is received, dispatch should tone out for a backup crew for 44 and, if after six minutes with no response, dispatch should pass the call back to the requesting agency. On roll call vote, all in favor. Commissioners Ash and Campion then retracted their motion. They made a new motion amending the department's procedures for a mutual aid request in that any call that requires BLS transport should be toned out for a backup crew and, if after six minutes there is no response, the call should be passed to MEDCOM. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Chief will forward a letter to MEDCOM and the Police Department regarding this change in procedure.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: The budget will be discussed with the Town Manager by the end of March.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Civitello, seconded by Commissioner Campion, that the BOFC adjourn the meeting at 10:35 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen, Board Clerk