

# TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

## Board of Fire Commissioners

### MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #4

MARCH 2, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Prunier called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

**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 Kevin Lyon, Lieutenant Steve Torino and Foreman Kyle Conklin. COUNCIL LIAISON: Mayor Michael Doody.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** None.

**READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Civitello, that the Board approve the Minutes of the February 2, 2017 Regular Meeting. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:** The Board received an invitation from Co. 4 regarding their installation dinner to be held on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Chief Seward received an email from Town Manager Paulhus advising him and the Board of a Special Meeting to be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. to discuss the future of the 911 dispatch center. The Chief encouraged all members to attend and speak.

**DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS:** The Fire Marshal's Report for February was distributed listing 134 calls. Reports were received and distributed from Deputy Chiefs Esposito and Colangelo and Assistant Chief/Training Officer Amatrudo. Deputy Chief Esposito noted that the meters will be replaced on houses connected to city water beginning in the spring due to upgrades. Transmitters on telephone poles will be utilized to obtain the data.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF:** Chief Seward's report dated March, 2017 was distributed to the Board. The Chief informed the Board that recommendations are still being made relating to MEDCOM operations. The budget workshop with the Town Council is scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. He, along with Chairman Prunier and Treasurer/Finance Director Esposito, met with the Town Manager and he noted that no cuts were made at that time to the budget. They clarified the Board clerk's duties with regard to the pay. He distributed copies of the Standard Operating Guideline regarding time lapsed contact in compliance with NFPA 1561. It places the burden on the dispatcher to contact the unit on scene at ten minute intervals to ensure their safety. He noted that a mutual aid call to Durham resulted in a tanker responding but not being utilized.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Lt. Torino gave the Board an overview of the status of his newly designed website for the fire department. The website is ready to go and consists of information about the department, live feeds, links to multiple sites, program information, and other pertinent information. Commissioner DellaCamera made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Civitello, that

Lt. Torino go live with his website. On roll call, all in favor. The Board was very impressed with the site and the effort made by Lt. Torino. It was noted that, due to State budget cuts, the Town may be looking to cut budgets to keep the mil rate down. It was suggested that the Board discuss possible areas that could be cut if the Council required cuts. The Board decided to hold a Special Meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at Co. 4 to discuss the budget. Regarding fire rescue billing, the Chief felt it might be appropriate at this time to withdraw support for it. He was discouraged by the misinformation that was put out in the newspaper and TV and noted that he provided detailed information to the Town Manager and Council regarding this billing procedure. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DellaCamera, that the Board withdraw the fire rescue billing proposal at this time and potentially revisit it at a later date. On roll call, all in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:** a. Discussion re Apparatus Repairs: Chief Seward noted that approximately \$25,000 will be spent on repairs this fiscal year due to DOT inspections, pump testing, and the brake job for Tower 1. Some brake parts were worn and it will cost approximately \$14,284 to repair the brakes.

b. Discussion re Equipment Testing: The ladders, hose, and SCBA regulators are required to be tested before the end of June and could possibly cost \$20,000 to accomplish these tests.

He will be attending the CT Fire Chiefs' Association meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup> in Branford which will focus on recruitment and retention. Volunteer Firefighters Day is scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup> between 10 and 2 p.m. The Chief informed the Board that Firelite is surprising a young autistic boy from Wisconsin who is interested in fire alarms, etc. by arranging for him to visit Northford Firelite on March 7<sup>th</sup> to celebrate his birthday. The Chief will have apparatus available and there will be media coverage as well.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENTS:** Lt. Torino apologized for previous comments he made about current Fire Commission Minutes not being available on the Town's website.

**WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION:** The Budget hearings for the Town Council are scheduled for the date of the next Board Meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The Board decided to change the date from April 6<sup>th</sup> to a Special Meeting on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at Company #1 with a regular agenda. The Chief encouraged all members to attend the meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup> regarding the dispatch center.

**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