

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

Board of Fire Commissioners

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #2

MAY 4, 2023

CALL TO ORDER/SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Vice-Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL: Vice-Chairman Joseph Civitello and Commissioners Laura Burich, Ron Onofrio, and Neill Salamack. Chairman Ed Prunier was absent. **OTHERS:** Officers: Interim Fire Chief Anthony Esposito, Deputy Chiefs Mark Amatrudo and Robert Colangelo, Captain James Buda, Lieutenants Kyle Conklin and Matt Gillis and John McFarland from Vintech.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The Minutes from the previous meeting could not be approved as there wasn't a quorum present from the previous meeting.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS: A letter was received and read from Doug Fuchs, Chief Operations Officer of NorcomCT. They are hosting a First Responders Night at the Hartford Yard Goats game on July 20th. They are recognizing all first responders killed in the line of duty and would also like to honor the efforts of those involved with the save of the nine month old child in town.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS: Reports were received and distributed from Interim Fire Chief Anthony Esposito and Deputy Chiefs Mark Amatrudo and Robert Colangelo. The Fire Marshal's report for April will be mailed.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Purchasing and Budget: Vice-Chairman informed the Board that \$15,000 was cut from the department's budget but the Board was able to decide what line item(s) should be reduced.

REPORT FROM CHIEF: Interim Chief Esposito informed the Board that there was a power surge on Forest Road which tripped a heater at a household. The family was pleased with the response from the fire department. He noted that more personnel are taking shifts on the ambulance which is keeping the costs lower. He participated in an emergency meeting at the Yale Center for EMS due to the emergency rooms being filled to capacity and people being put in the halls. Some suggestions for remedies were to utilize the Guilford campus as well as the Devine Street campus to offer additional services. He informed the Board that Motorola is now stating an August/September date instead of the July 1st date for communications. There will be budgetary impacts as there was no money budgeted for use of Ochenkowski's tower after June 30th so the Town will try to extend the deal with Ochenkowski. The Memorial Day Parade is in the North Branford section of town and Company #1 will have refreshments after the parade. There is a Touch A Truck event scheduled for May 20th and all Companies will be represented with apparatus available for the children to see. He asked Deputy Chief Amatrudo to inform the Board about the FDIC Trip to Indianapolis. Deputy Chief Amatrudo noted that they met with different vendors and attended training seminars. He noted that there are

now quarterly price increases on the apparatus and the lead times are approximately 2 ½ years. He will find out the manufacturing start date for the tower truck soon. He suggested that the lettering, etc. be determined as soon as possible so there is no time wasted when the truck is ready. Interim Chief Esposito requested that Deputy Chief Colangelo speak about the Communications Committee meeting. Deputy Chief Colangelo informed the Board that mutual aid was discussed and some policies are being revised.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Ambulance Replacement Options: Interim Chief Esposito discussed the purchase of the new ambulance at the price of approximately \$297,000 which has been budgeted. He recently became aware of a Tennessee company that does remounts and the price would be \$219,500 and they would purchase the old ambulance. There is approximately an \$80,000 difference. He did some research and spoke to some buyers in different parts of the country who were very satisfied with the Tennessee company. He said it would be a 2022 F450 with a Horton or Wheelcoach body with black and red as the colors. Commissioner Onofrio made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Salamack, to approve the purchase of an ambulance with a Horton body subject to town purchasing guidelines from R Enterprises LLC in Tennessee. On roll call vote, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION: The information on the ambulance should be available as well as an update on communications.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner Salamack and seconded by Commissioner Burich to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane B. Whalen

Diane B. Whalen, Board Clerk