

# TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

## Board of Fire Commissioners

### MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY #3

OCTOBER 5, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER/SALUTE TO THE FLAG:** Vice-Chairman Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**ROLL CALL:** Chairman Laura Burich, Vice-Chairman Joseph Civitello and Commissioners William DellaCamera, Ron Onofrio and Neill Salamack. **OTHERS:** Officers: Interim Fire Chief Anthony Esposito, Deputy Chief Mark Amatrudo, Deputy Fire Marshal John O'Brien, Captains Jake Conway, Artie Hausman and Corey Roberts, Lieutenants Ken Ash, Kyle Conklin and Matt Gillis, John McFarland from Vintech and Ron Pelliccia, Council liaison.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Commissioner Burich made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Salamack, to approve the Minutes from the September 7, 2023 meeting. On roll call vote, four in favor and one abstention by Commissioner DellaCamera due to his absence from that meeting. Commissioner Onofrio made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Burich, to approve the Minutes from the September 18, 2023 Special Meeting. On roll call vote, four in favor and one abstention by Commissioner DellaCamera due to his absence from that meeting.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**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 September will be mailed.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Communications: Regarding the tower in Northford, there are some electrical issues prior to being completed and hopefully they should all be done by the end of December. There was a meeting of the Communications Committee and various items were discussed. The issue of portable radios and who would receive one was discussed as well as whether or not to keep Ambulance 42. There isn't much resale value for an old ambulance so it might be wise to keep it as a backup. A copy of another town's drone policy was received, and portables will also be required for drone usage. A policy is currently being discussed. Ambulance: The ambulance is being delivered on October 16th.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF:** Interim Chief Esposito informed the Board that the fire police are now fully staffed. He noted that the ambulance provided coverage for the Closer to Free event. He will probably purchase some sensory kits to have on hand. The drone policy is being reviewed. Interim Chief Esposito inquired as to whether the Board had any issues with Company #4 having a garden outside the building so they could have fresh produce with their meals. The Board gave their consent. The transition from Vintech to NorthEast Fire Rescue will take place on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. John McFarland will continue to be the contact

person. The Explorer Program is being relaunched on October 19<sup>th</sup> to encourage participation by younger members.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** **a. Discussion re: Retirement Age 70** and **b. Discussion re: Physicals** were tabled until further information is available. **c. Discussion re: Future Location of Company #4:** Interim Chief Esposito noted that the location of Company #4 is almost central to the town and now that a Blueprint Committee has been formed, he inquired if there is a consensus to move the location to another area. If so, the Board should contact the Blueprint Committee and make them aware. He suggested that the Future Planning and Projection Committee meet to discuss this issue and then bring it to the Blueprint Committee. Councilor Pelliccia agreed that the Board's Committee should meet first to discuss this issue and then meet with the Blueprint Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **a. Discussion & Action re: Appointment of Chairman:** Due to the resignation of former Board member and Chairman, Ed Prunier, the Board is required to fill the vacancy. Commissioner Onofrio made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Salamack, to nominate Commissioner Burich as Chairman. No other nominations were made. On roll call vote, all in favor. **b. Discussion & Action re: Appointment of Vice-Chairman:** this action was not necessary as Vice-Chairman Civitello will remain Vice-Chairman. **c. Discussion & Action re: Pension Statistics 2022-2023:** Interim Chief Esposito distributed the pension statistics and noted that there are 80 individuals qualified for 2022-2023. Chairman Burich made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Onofrio, to approve the pension statistics for 2022-2023. On roll call vote, all in favor. Interim Chief Esposito awarded certificates to the following members for the highest number of calls in their Companies: Connor Coyne, Christopher Crotty, and Matthew Gillis for Company #1, Walter Munzer, David Prather, and John Pine for Company #2, and Alexander Shamp, Alexander Stasiuk, and Joseph Manzi for Company #3. Company #4 members with the highest number of duty hours were: Anthony Caggiano, John McFarland, and Christopher Burr. He also recognized Walter Munzer for going above and beyond solving maintenance issues ensuring that the vehicles stay in service. **d. Discussion & Action re: Disposition of Ambulance 42:** Interim Chief Esposito felt that this ambulance should remain in the department as a backup vehicle if the need arises. Chairman Burich questioned where it would be kept and noted that it's required to be inspected and maintained. Because of recent issues with the ambulances, Interim Chief Esposito suggested keeping it for a trial period. Commissioner Salamack made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Onofrio, to keep Ambulance 42 in service for a period of twelve months and then re-evaluate its usefulness. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Deputy Chief Amatrudo provided current photos of the new tower truck which should be done by the end of October and then a trip will be scheduled to inspect it. The striping and lettering will be kept uniform with the other apparatus. Cliff Potter agreed that Ambulance 42 should remain in service because it might be needed. Vice-Chairman Civitello introduced and welcomed Commissioner DellaCamera to the Board. Interim Chief Esposito discussed two different companies as options for the wrap of the ambulance. JetFab in Guilford quoted a price of \$9,875 and another company in Plantsville supplied a price of \$10,154. Commissioner Onofrio made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Salamack, to approve JetFab for the wrap of the vehicle. On roll call vote, all in favor. He then discussed the power seat options with Hammonasset Ford supplying a price of \$5,927.50 and a Ford dealer in Norwich supplying a price of \$4,372. It was decided that, if there is a problem, Hammonasset Ford in Madison is closer than Norwich. Commissioner

Salamack made a motion, seconded by Chairman Burich, to use Hammonasset Ford for the power seat in the ambulance. On roll call vote, all in favor. Interim Chief Esposito noted that the total for the ambulance would be \$299,966.90 including the wrap and power seat which is less than the \$300,000 budgeted amount.

**WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Commissioner Salamack, seconded by Chairman Burich, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. On roll call vote, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Diane B. Whalen*

Diane B. Whalen, Board Clerk