

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING DECEMBER 22, 2020

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A virtual meeting of the North Haven Board of Fire Commission was held on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

### **Commissioners Present Virtually:**

Pasquale Nuzzolillo, Chairman  
Michael Zuccarelli, Vice Chairman  
Mary Jane Mulligan, Secretary  
Joseph Cappucci, Commissioner  
Jennie Caldwell, Commissioner

### **Staff Present Virtually:**

Paul Januszewski, Fire Chief  
David Marcarelli, Deputy Chief of Administration  
Scott Martus, Deputy Chief of Operations  
Yvonne Zilinski, Secretary

### **Staff Absent:**

None

Chairman Nuzzolillo called the Board of Fire Commission meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed all attendees to the virtual meeting.

Commissioner Zuccarelli motioned, with a second from Commissioner Cappucci to approve the minutes of the Board of Fire Commission Meeting that was held on November 24, 2020.

Nuzzolillo – yes, Zuccarelli-yes, Mulligan – yes, Cappucci – yes, Caldwell – no

Commissioner Caldwell voted no - stating minutes need to reflect more discussion.

Chief Januszewski discussed his Chief's Report and spoke regarding the following: EMS alarms; current budget, permit fees received and fire marshal office details were discussed. Lastly, he stated he had a few things to discuss in executive session. Training was not discussed.

Chairman Nuzzolillo then asked the Commissioners if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Chief's report. Brief discussion was then had amongst the commission regarding his report.

Chief Januszewski stated that he had no correspondence within the department. However, he thanked various businesses and residents for their thoughtfulness during the holiday season.

Chairman Nuzzolillo then asked if the commissioners had received any correspondences to share with the commission, they stated they did not.

Chief Januszewski discussed the unfinished business within the department. He spoke with regard to the state of the fire apparatus and that during the next budget presentation, at the Board of Finance to be held in mid-January 2021, he will be asking for the lease of 2 new pumper engines to replace the aging fleet of the department which are 25 years and older.

Chairman Nuzzolillo then asked the Commissioners if there were any questions or concerns regarding the unfinished business. Brief discussion was then had amongst the commissioners regarding the apparatus fleet. It was determined by the commissioners that a letter will be drafted to the Board of Finance from the Board of Fire Commission in favor of replacing the aging fleet.

Chief Januszewski spoke of the new business within the fire department. There will need to be a motion made with regard to unused vacation days of the career firefighters due to Covid and Injury Leave bumping them into 2021.

Chairman Nuzzolillo on behalf of the Board of Fire Commission thanked all the career firefighters for their dedication to the department this year during covid.

Commissioner Mulligan motioned, with a second from Commissioner Cappucci to accept carrying over the remaining 2020 vacation days into 2021 for the career firefighters due to covid and injury leave within the department – 42 days in total.

Nuzzolillo – yes, Zuccarelli – yes, Mulligan – yes, Cappucci – yes, Caldwell – yes

Chief Januszewski then informed the commission that after discussion with all 3 Captains of the volunteer stations he had decided to extend the Fire Officer terms an extra year due to covid ending their current term in December, 2021. The commission was fine with that decision.

Chief Januszewski spoke with a follow-up of the Board of Selectman meeting which was held on December 3, 2020 regarding the PSAR. He discussed and gave a detailed overview with regard to the PSAR award won by the Town of North Haven in September 2020 for the commissioners and the general public for better understanding of what this entailed.

Commissioner Caldwell spoke of a couple of items that were discussed at the recent Board of Selectman meeting regarding Priority 1 and Priority 2 calls asking the Chief to better explain how that works for the public so that they have a better understanding. Commissioner Caldwell also spoke with regard to the concern of recent major increases in the fire department budget over the past few years so she did a historical look back from 2007/2008 budget forward to 2020/2021 between Police and Fire department budgets which are both public safety and comparable and determined that there was only approximately a \$2.6 million increase for Police and a \$2.7 increase for Fire. Both budgets have increased comparatively over that time.

Chief Januszewski then explained exactly how Priority 1 and Priority 2 calls are determined through the EMD at dispatch.

Chairman Nuzzolillo then discussed his overview and concerns regarding the Board of Selectman meeting with regard to the Third Selectwoman's concerns/questions regarding PSAR and the increasing budgets over the past few years. He thanked the Chief's and Town Attorney on behalf of the commission for their successful win of the PSAR which was awarded to the Town of North Haven. Discussions were then held amongst the commissioners with their concerns and comments.

Chairman Nuzzolillo then asked for a motion to go into executive session by the Commission.

There being no further public business to come before the Board of Fire Commission, Commissioner Zuccarelli motioned, with a second from Commissioner Cappucci to convene an executive session at 7:33 PM.

Nuzzolillo – yes, Zuccarelli – yes, Mulligan – yes, Cappucci – yes, Caldwell – yes

Chairman Nuzzolillo moved to reconvene the meeting at 7:46 PM.

Commissioner Zuccarelli motioned, with a second motion from Commissioner Cappucci per the Rules and Regulations to remove Steven Gomes as a volunteer firefighter probationary member of the North Haven Fire Department, effective immediately.

Nuzzolillo – yes, Zuccarelli – yes, Mulligan – yes, Cappucci – yes, Caldwell – yes

Chairman Nuzzolillo stated when the next Board of Fire Commission would take place and then asked if there were any other comments coming before this commission and none were heard. He then wished everyone a happy holiday season and a healthy 2021. A motion was requested to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Cappucci motioned, with a second from Commissioner Zuccarelli to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM.

Nuzzolillo – yes, Zuccarelli – yes, Mulligan – yes, Cappucci – yes, Caldwell – yes

**Reminder: The next virtual Board of Fire Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2020 at 6:00 PM.**