

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING JANUARY 26, 2021

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A virtual meeting of the North Haven Board of Fire Commission was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 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.

Chairman Nuzzolillo held the Swearing In Ceremony and read the volunteer firefighter oath to all members individually starting with Sara Barbiero of Montowese Co2, Michael Benson of Montowese Co2 and Vincent Williams of West Ridge Co3.

Chairman Nuzzolillo then stated that he would move agenda item # 7 the “Good of the Fire Department” at that time and allow Third Selectwoman Sally Buemi the opportunity to speak and welcomed her to the virtual meeting of the Board of Fire Commission.

Third Selectwoman Sally Buemi thanked the Board of Fire Commission and thanked First Selectman’s office for allowing her the opportunity to speak during the Board of Fire Commission meeting. She addressed the commission with regard to item # 6 Good of the Fire Department from the December 22, 2020 meeting and also the Board of Selectman meeting held on December 3, 2020 regarding the PSAR awarded to the Town of North Haven and the fire department budget etc. Discussion was had by Third Selectwoman Sally Buemi with regard to her concerns and comments of the above listed items.

Chairman Nuzzolillo thanked her for her comments and concerns. He also thanked her for the invite to join her on her NHTV program to discuss fire department issues but at this time, he declined. He stated that any discussions she may have regarding the fire department should be addressed at a Board of Fire Commission meeting so that all commissioners are aware and may give their input as well. The Third Selectwoman agreed and looks forward to the opportunity to join in public comment but due to Covid that is not allowed as of yet.

Chairman Nuzzolillo thanked everyone for their patience with the Swearing In Ceremony of Sara Barbiero, Michael Benson and Vincent Williams and on behalf of the commission he thanked them for their dedicated service as volunteer firefighters to the Town and look forward to them serving our residents for years to come.

Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes and there was brief discussion regarding the minutes.

Commissioner Mulligan motioned, with a second from Commissioner Zuccarelli to approve as amended the minutes of the Board of Fire Commission Meeting that was held on December 22, 2020.

VOTE: Nuzzolillo – yes, Zuccarelli-yes, Mulligan – yes, Cappucci – yes, Caldwell – yes

Chief Januszewski discussed his Chief's Report and spoke regarding the following: EMS alarms; current budget and covid overtime expenses, permit fees received within the department and fire marshal office details were discussed. Lastly, he discussed training within the department and stated he had a few things to discuss in executive session.

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 commissioners regarding his report as well as the building project status of the upcoming training facility which is located behind Northeast Co4 station.

Chief Januszewski stated that he had no correspondence within the department.

Chairman Nuzzolillo then asked if the commissioners had received any correspondences to share with the commission, they stated they did not. Chairman Nuzzolillo stated he had received 2 correspondences first an email from a town resident and second from Commissioner Caldwell.

Chief Januszewski discussed the unfinished business within the department. He spoke with regard to the state of the fire apparatus annual preventive maintenance are still being completed on all apparatus and that Engine 8 is currently for sale. Lastly, he gave a budget presentation recap for the commission from the Board of Finance budget workshop meeting that was held recently on January 16, 2021.

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 budget presentation recap and future leasing of apparatus fleet costs to replace the aging fleet in the department. Commissioner Zuccarelli reached out to Montowese section with regard to manning Montowese Co2 with career firefighters and their responses were very supportive and appreciative for the work that both career and volunteer firefighters are doing and the neighbors are very supportive of the efforts of the fire service.

Chief Januszewski spoke of the new business within the fire department. He stated that we are currently pursuing conditional offers for three new recruits at this time and it is still to be determined which fire academy they will be attending pending on timing.

Chairman Nuzzolillo then asked the Board of Fire Commissioners if they had any discussion regarding Third Selectwoman's concerns or comments that she spoke of during the earlier part of the meeting. Discussion was then had amongst the commissioners.

Chairman Nuzzolillo apologized to Third Selectwoman Sally Buemi regarding his comment made during the December 22, 2020 Board of Fire Commission meeting. He then responded and gave his opinions as to the Third Selectwoman's comments and concerns from earlier in the meeting.

Commissioner Caldwell asked the Chief to speak with regard to amending the Volunteer Firefighter Pension from the town meeting which was held on Monday, January 25, 2021 and to explain brief understanding of how the pension works for the volunteer firefighters.

Chief Januszewski then gave a brief synopsis of how it was done in the past before his time as Chief of the fire department and how the pension currently runs with accreditable years of service. This is a value added for both those that live in North Haven and those who live outside of town that serve our community. This is all done through a pension committee voted on by their peers. Chairman Nuzzolillo then added that he has been a part of some of the meetings and is fully supportive of their efforts.

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 Caldwell motioned, with a second from Commissioner Cappucci to convene an executive session at 7:42 PM.

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

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

Chairman Nuzzolillo motioned, with a second motion from Commissioner Mulligan to accept Josh Mednick as a probationary member of West Ridge Co3, effective immediately.

VOTE: 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. A motion was requested to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Caldwell motioned, with a second from Commissioner Mulligan to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM.

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

**Reminder: The next virtual Board of Fire Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:00 PM.**