

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING OCTOBER 26, 2021

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A meeting of the North Haven Board of Fire Commission was held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 6:00 PM in the community room at Montowese Co2, 282 Quinnipiac Ave, North Haven, CT.

### **Commissioners Present:**

Pasquale Nuzzolillo, Chairman  
Mary Jane Mulligan, Secretary  
Vincenzo Gallo, Commissioner  
Jennie Caldwell, Commissioner

### **Commissioners Absent**

Joseph Cappucci, Commissioner

### **Staff Present:**

Paul Januszewski, Fire Chief

Chairman Nuzzolillo called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Chairman Nuzzolillo held the Swearing In Ceremony and read the volunteer firefighter oath to Thomas Gallagher of Northeast Co4. He thanked the family for their support that they provided to their child. He also stated rest assure that our senior leadership of the department will keep him safe and well trained.

Commissioner Mulligan made a motion, with a second motion from Commissioner Gallo to approve the minutes of the Board of Fire Commission Regular Meeting that was held on September 28, 2021.

VOTE: Nuzzolillo – yes, Mulligan – yes, Cappucci – absent, Caldwell – yes, Gallo – yes

Chief Januszewski discussed his Chief's Report and spoke regarding the following: EMS alarms; EMS billing; current budget; permit fees received and fire marshal office details were discussed. Training within the department was also discussed. He stated that sick and injury would be discussed during executive session.

Brief discussion was had amongst the Commissioners regarding the Chief's report. Commissioner Caldwell touched base on budget after watching Board of Finance meeting about the increase in water costs. She asked if Chief had an update on the water expense within the department. Chief Januszewski stated it looks like the department is being charged every six months and he is in dispute with RWA at this time. He feels it should be applied elsewhere. Those invoices never cross his desk and goes directly to Finance so he is trying to rectify it. Also, Commissioner Caldwell asked about the contractual obligations, overtime and FEMA money. Chief answered how the contractual obligations and overtime works. Commissioner Caldwell stated that when you have more staff it actually will manage overtime expenses and lower costs. Chairman Nuzzolillo then stated how disappointed he was with the comments by Board of Finance member Nancy Barrett with regard to her comparisons and stats of the fire department and police department. Do the research and understand the numbers before shooting from the hip. Her comments were fearful to the seniors of this town and her facts are incorrect. He

thanked Commissioner Caldwell for her understanding and doing her research as to why the department is moving forward and asking for more manpower to cut costs in the budget. Commissioner Caldwell then spoke of the comparisons between the police department and fire department with regard to their budgets. She stated when you increase the staff you'll actually decrease the overtime.

Chairman Nuzzolillo asked Secretary Mulligan to read the correspondence within the department – 1 letter was read from a town resident regarding the services provided by Nelson Ambulance service and thanked them for their dedication to this town. Commissioner Mulligan then thanked the department on a personal note for their quick response provided to her family in the past week. Chairman Nuzzolillo then thanked Nelson and their staff for all they do for the residents and people in the Town of North Haven.

Chairman Nuzzolillo created a communication that will be forwarded to Chairman Richard Monico of the Board of Finance in response to Nancy Barrett's comments and concerns at the recent Board of Finance meeting held on October 20, 2021 with regard to the fire department. He then read the correspondence.

Chief Januszewski discussed the unfinished business within the department. He spoke about the progress of the new training center behind Northeast Co4 station nearly complete just waiting on parts for the roof prop and then the tower should be good to open; state of fire apparatus with regard to repairs/issues and the ordering of 2 new engines at the end of July 2021 which will take about 18 months or longer due to parts being delayed during these tough times; lastly, new recruit testing, consortium for paramedics and lateral applications were discussed.

Brief discussion was had amongst the Commissioners regarding the unfinished business. Commissioner Caldwell asked about the Rescue and the administrative cars issues. Chief Januszewski stated no issues at this time. She then spoke about possibilities about waivers with municipal projects as she did speak with someone at OPM and it sounds like it's a possibility that some waivers could be used for engines and ladder trucks but she will have to do more research into this and get back to the Commission as they are very strict with those waivers.

Chief Januszewski spoke of the new business within the fire department. He asked for a motion to add Juan Garcia into Montowese Co2 as a probationary member.

Commissioner Mulligan made a motion, with a second motion from Commissioner Gallo, to accept Juan Garcia as a probationary member of Montowese Co2, effective immediately.

VOTE: Nuzzolillo – yes, Mulligan – yes, Gallo – yes, Cappucci – absent, Caldwell – yes

Chief Januszewski discussed the good of the fire department. He spoke about an email he received from United Nations General Assembly on September 7, 2021. The correspondence stated that Lt. Jason Cusack and Local 2987 are laureates of the 2021 Special Award of World Bicycle Day of the United Nations for promoting safe cycling for school children. Local 2987 has been providing helmets to the youth since 1998 and will be recognized with other agencies throughout the world. Congratulations to Local 2987 for their dedication to this program as they deserve this recognition. Chairman Nuzzolillo then spoke of the article that was posted in the North Haven Citizen regarding this same program. He thanked the fire union for all they do with regard to keeping our children safe.

Chairman Nuzzolillo asked if anyone had any public comments. None heard.

Commissioner Caldwell had one more thought regarding Fire Operations done in 2007 with Board of Finance and Board of Fire Commissioners and First Selectman. She heard it was a great educational experience and she was thinking maybe doing a little more to help people making decisions about where the monies go and she thought it would be very helpful to do more of that again with regard to resources the department needs. Chief Januszewski stated it was a live burn trailer and the union put that together and he will try to get an answer next month to see if they are interested in doing this again.

There being no further public business to come before the Board of Fire Commission, Commissioner Caldwell made a motion, with a second motion from Commissioner Gallo to convene an executive session at 7:00 PM.

VOTE: Nuzzolillo – yes, Mulligan – yes, Gallo – yes, Cappucci – absent, Caldwell – yes

Chairman Nuzzolillo moved to reconvene the meeting at 7:32 PM.

Chairman Nuzzolillo stated when the next Board of Fire Commission would be held.

Chairman Nuzzolillo said hearing no other public comments and having no further business to come before the Board of Fire Commission he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Caldwell made a motion, with a second motion from Commissioner Mulligan to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM.

VOTE: Nuzzolillo – yes, Mulligan – yes, Gallo – yes, Cappucci – absent, Caldwell – yes

**Reminder: The next Board of Fire Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 6:00 PM at Montowese Co2 – Community Room.**