

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING NOVEMBER 23, 2021

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A meeting of the North Haven Board of Fire Commission was held on Tuesday, November 23, 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  
Joseph Cappucci, Commissioner  
Jennie Caldwell, Commissioner

### **Commissioners Absent**

### **Staff Present:**

Paul Januszewski, Fire Chief

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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 October 26, 2021.

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

### CHIEF'S REPORT:

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.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Nuzzolillo stated he received a correspondence by email from a town resident regarding electric fire apparatus and forwarded the email to the Chief. Commissioner Caldwell asked about the fire commission email on the website as to who they will go to. Chief Januszewski stated that they come to him and then he will email the commissioners the correspondence.

### OLD BUSINESS OF FD:

Chairman Nuzzolillo asked Chief Januszewski where the department stands with regard to the training center. Chief Januszewski stated that they are waiting on parts – he is working with the Building Department to get a temporary certificate of occupancy over the next few weeks. Chairman Nuzzolillo then asked about the apparatus status in the department. Chief Januszewski stated present time that E6, T2 and R1 are out of service. Operationally, not a huge impact on the department but maintenance on other apparatus repairs are on hold. Commissioner Cappucci asked about Tower 1 running too many calls. Chief Januszewski

responded been over this over a dozen times can only staff one Rescue. Chairman Nuzzolillo asked about the new apparatus status – Chief stated Spring, 2023.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Nothing to discuss.

**GOOD OF THE FD:**

Chairman Nuzzolillo asked if firefighters doing any Food Drives. Chief Januszewski stated nothing that he's been made aware of.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ms. Nancy Barrett had 2 items to discuss. First, the new policy in which an ambulance can be dispatched with no other apparatus responding. Secondly, a response letter which she read for the public regarding Chairman Nuzzolillo's letter to Chairman Monico of the Board of Finance regarding a presentation of verified financial figures of the Fire Department's contractual staffing calls that she shared with the BOF committee on October 20, 2021 at their monthly meeting.

Brief discussion was then had amongst the Board of Fire Commission and Ms. Barrett. Commissioner Caldwell stressed the Board of Fire Commission is in charge of governing the fire departments resources, functions and operations. Fire department operations seems to be outside what the Board of Finance should be doing. Why are analyses not being done on other departments – only analysis is on the Fire Department. As a resident, she has a hard time with let's save money at the cost of safety. This Board's purpose is to advocate for the needs of this department and for all residents of this Town. Chief Januszewski stated that he is adding enough to bring the staff up to ten firefighters per shift but not changing the minimum staffing needed to keep apparatus running even if the department continues to grow per shift beyond ten men but keep the minimum at ten firefighters, therefore, saving overtime costs per shift.

Ms. Sally Buemi – Blossom Drive. She passed out a packet of documents that she'll be referring to during her public comment. Congratulated Chairman Nuzzolillo and Commissioners Cappucci and Gallo on their reelection this past election. Chairman Nuzzolillo congratulated her as well. Firstly, she has been asked before why she is analyzing the fire department – few years back 50% increase of staffing and increase of budget lines from 1 to 2% on average sometimes more, as recently 7, 11, 4% over past couple years. Therefore, she has been following the fire department very closely past few fiscal years. Lengthy discussion was had amongst the commission and Ms. Buemi regarding her concerns of contractual replacement staffing; paramedic billing/revenue; Covid expenses according to Mr. Freda's article in the Register; revenue reports; expense spreadsheet report by Ms. Barrett and her disappointment in Chairman Nuzzolillo with regard to comments directed at Ms. Barrett for her expense report. Lengthy discussion was had amongst commission and Ms. Buemi.

Chairman Nuzzolillo stated there is more to the fire department than just expenses, significant monies/revenue that are generated from the fire department and are not reflected in our budget. The residents of the Town of North Haven are served correctly by the fire department and feel they can underwrite the costs for the services received. He believes it was very clear at the recent election when the residents voiced their opinions at the polls on how this Town, Boards and Commissions operate and they feel all are doing a great job at what they are doing. He will continue to rely on the senior management of our department to make appropriate presentations necessary to the Board of Finance and leave it up to them to decide.

Chairman Nuzzolillo still stands by his word that the numbers were not correct as presented by Ms. Barrett, as they were only showing expenses but not reimbursements. When residents hear that the residents can not afford the Fire Department as it is, that's her opinion. However, she's

misleading the residents of the Town as there's more to the fire department than just expenses as Commissioner Caldwell explained.

Ms. Buemi then thanked Commissioner Caldwell for advocating for greater involvement of the budgetary process through the Board of Fire Commission and bringing that forward. Chairman Nuzzolillo also thanked Commissioner Caldwell for her participation to the commission and she brings a great deal of skill and expertise. Commissioner Gallo briefly spoke regarding the budget with follow up from Ms. Barrett regarding revenue, expenditure, special revenue funds as well as BOE budget. Lastly, Ms. Buemi asked about the PSAR and the new recruits in January 2022. Chief Januszewski replied with answers to both.

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 Mulligan to convene an executive session at 8:00 PM.

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

Chairman Nuzzolillo moved to reconvene the meeting at 8:36 PM.

Chairman Nuzzolillo stated when the next Board of Fire Commission would be held and also wished a Happy Thanksgiving to all.

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 Cappucci made a motion, with a second motion from Commissioner Gallo to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 PM.

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

**Reminder: The next Board of Fire Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 6:00 PM at Montowese Co2 – Community Room.**