

MINUTES

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 25, 2022

A meeting of the North Haven Board of Fire Commission was held on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 6:00 PM @ Montowese Co2, 282 Quinnipiac Ave, North Haven, CT.

Commissioners Present:

Pasquale Nuzzolillo, Chairman
Vincenzo Gallo, Vice Chairman
Jennie Caldwell, Commissioner
Patricia Brown, Commissioner

Commissioners Absent:

Mary Jane Mulligan, Secretary

Staff Present:

Paul Januszewski, Fire Chief

Chairman Nuzzolillo called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Moment of silence was held for the passing of Bristol Police Officers.

Chairman Nuzzolillo welcomed the newest member to the Board of Fire Commission, Pat Brown. She fills the vacancy of deceased member Joseph Cappucci and we look forward to working alongside of her to help this commission as we move forward.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Gallo made a motion, with a second motion from Commissioner Caldwell to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commission held on September 27, 2022.

VOTE: Nuzzolillo – yes, Gallo – yes, Mulligan – absent, Caldwell – yes, Brown - abstained

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Januszewski welcomed Commissioner Brown and stated this is the first majority female commission in the history of North Haven which is really awesome.

Chief Januszewski discussed his Chief's Report and spoke regarding the following: EMS alarms; current budget FY 22/23; permit fees received; EMS billing; Covid - staffing; lastly, fire marshal office details.

Brief discussion was had amongst the commission regarding the Chief's report.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Chief Januszewski stated he had received a letter from Wallingford Fire Department thanking our department for the use of the gator.

Commissioner Caldwell stated she received an email from resident regarding highway incidents advocating for the DOT to look into this within the Town of North Haven.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chief Januszewski stated he had nothing for old business but Chairman asked him to speak about Fire Prevention week. The theme for this year was “Fire won’t wait – plan your escape” and the department visited schools and daycares putting this message out. Every year the theme changes. He also was proud to announce that the North Haven School system will once again be participating in the State Poster Contest this year. Lastly, a Halloween press release was put out by the department to stay safe.

Chairman Nuzzolillo also stated to make sure to change your batteries during daylight savings time in your smoke detectors but to also make sure that your detector is not outdated.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Januszewski wanted to make the commission aware of the upcoming 23/24 budget preparedness for the fire department. He will provide the commissioners with what he is looking to accomplish for next fiscal year a few days before the budget workshop is scheduled.

The status of the fire engines was discussed; 7 fire engines within the town which are the apparatus that carry the water. There are 2 new engines ordered and they are approximately one year out (possibly longer) before arrival of them due to backorders of parts to build the engine. Rotation of engines is getting more difficult with the repairs that are needed. The status of those 7 engines shows their age (a few are 29 to 36 years old) and the work that will be needed in order to be kept in service. The department may have several engines that will be out of service soon with parts needed, including the engine that was hit on the highway last year which is still 3 months out from being back in service due to parts delayed. Therefore, if apparatus is not in service, those engines won’t be dispatched and no additional engines will be able to arrive. At the end of the day we need fire engines in this town. Chief stated he positioned a proposal to the 1st Selectman and they are going to start working through some public meetings to try to position themselves to purchase a used engine, cost is approximately \$200K, to just get us by for a while. Chief is also looking at possibly leasing an engine to get us operational again until the department can take delivery of a used engine and then the leased engine would be terminated. The commissioners recommended it may be necessary to purchase two (2) used engines to get us through this difficult situation. Chief stated that there are not many used engines out there and the soonest he could possibly take possession of one would be the end of December. Lastly, he spoke of the need for a mechanic within the department who could prioritize these issues for the department and repair them as needed.

Lengthy discussion was had amongst the commissioners regarding the apparatus needs.

GOOD OF FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Januszewski stated that there is a town resident who is working diligently with Captain Jeff Obier on transcribing old log books and converting them over to digital. Chairman Nuzzolillo thanked that resident for all their time and effort to make this happen.

Chairman Nuzzolillo on behalf of the commission they send many thanks to both the Town of North Haven Fire and Police departments for their efforts over the past 2 weeks with regard to honoring the 2 Bristol Police Officers that tragically lost their lives serving their Town. Proud to see our departments out there honoring their fellow officers.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

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 – absent, Gallo – yes, Caldwell – yes, Brown - yes

Chairman Nuzzolillo moved to reconvene the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Chairman Nuzzolillo stated Commissioner Caldwell had a motion she would like to make.

Commissioner Caldwell made a motion, with a second motion from Commissioner Gallo to retire the state-wide entry level testing Paramedic section of the consortium list, effective immediately.

VOTE: Nuzzolillo – yes, Mulligan – absent, Gallo – yes, Caldwell – yes, Brown - yes

Chairman Nuzzolillo asked if there was any further business to be discussed. None heard.

Chairman Nuzzolillo announced when the next Board of Fire Commission meeting would be held. He then stated 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 Gallo to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 PM.

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

Reminder: The next regular Board of Fire Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 22, 2022 at 6:00 PM @ Montowese Co2.