

MINUTES

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING APRIL 26, 2022

A meeting of the North Haven Board of Fire Commission was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 6:00 PM in the community room at Montowese Co2, 282 Quinnipiac Ave, North Haven, CT.

Commissioners Present:

Pasquale Nuzzolillo, Chairman
Vincenzo Gallo, Vice Chairman
Joseph Cappucci, Commissioner
Jennie Caldwell, Commissioner

Commissioners Absent

Mary Jane Mulligan, Secretary

Staff Present:

Paul Januszewski, Fire Chief

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Caldwell 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 March 22, 2022.

VOTE: Nuzzolillo – yes, Gallo – abstained, Mulligan – absent, Cappucci – yes, Caldwell – 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; meetings with Town departments regarding permits; Construction Fire Safety Plan with regard to apartment complex being built; lastly, May 28th the department goes live with all four shifts staffed at Co2.

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

Commissioner Caldwell asked Chief Januszewski question regarding fire permit fees. Chief stated we are a little behind but that can change quickly in the Spring. She then asked Chief to speak about fire safety plan. Chief stated access to the site must be maintained at all times – basically construction safety, covered under the fire and building codes. Commissioner Caldwell asked if paramedic billing costs for services can happen by going to their home. Chief stated yes and there are three ways to capture billing for ems calls. He also stated that Nelson and Fire Department can both bill for different reasons. Chief lastly stated that the patient care comes first above and beyond billing – so we do not always collect revenue from sending staff. He also stated our company does soft billing so they sync up with hospital reports and bill insurance providers and patients could get billed as well.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Chief Januszewski stated he has received 3 -5 emails thanking our department for our service at their time of need.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nothing from the fire departments standpoint. Commissioner Caldwell spoke about the budget which was approved as requested by the Board of Finance. She had some public comments for them when reviewing budgets not to spend time on the operations of the fire department. She stated that is the rule of the commission to work with the Chief and overseeing things that relate to operations. Chairman Monico agreed that the fire commission should be looking at policies and procedures. Commissioner Caldwell wanted to share that with the Board of Fire Commission.

Chairman Nuzzolillo stated that he has had many discussions with Chairman Monico regarding their involvement with the operations of our department during their Board of Finance budget meetings. He thanked Commissioner Caldwell and he believes that the Board of Finance understands what their role is as well as we understand what the Board of Fire Commission's role is. Chairman Nuzzolillo looks forward to the next Town Meeting where all residents will have an opportunity to voice their opinions and pass the referendum as stated.

Commissioner Caldwell still believes that Finance should distribute monthly budget status of the fire department's budget so that as a Commission we could discuss and examine those expenditures/issues at our monthly meetings. She does know that the Police department gets copies monthly for their meetings.

Chief Januszewski spoke about the status of our apparatus with regard to repairs and maintenance. New Rescue has been reserved and ready to be delivered within about 30 days. He also spoke about the training tower and it is being used every day.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nothing from the fire departments standpoint. Commissioner Caldwell asked what the costs are to become a volunteer firefighter in the Town of North Haven. Chief Januszewski explained what it entails to become a volunteer and that the costs are very minimal. When they show interest in becoming a volunteer we ask that they hang out a couple of weeks and attend the drills to understand what volunteering is all about including visiting the training tower. Once they become a probationary member they have 6 months to a year to enter into a FFI class to become an active member (this is required by the State). There are times that once they take the FFI class they realize they are not cut out to be a firefighter for one reason or another and they may drop out. The members do pay to attend the course upfront (\$1500 approximately) and once they pass the course, the Town will then reimburse them immediately. Equipment and gear are all the town's responsibility.

Commissioner Caldwell asked about mutual aid. Chief Januszewski discussed the number of times the department has either gone to other surrounding towns or them coming into our town.

Chairman Nuzzolillo spoke about how important it is to have mutual aid, as our town doesn't have 16 firefighter's which is the number the department would need in the event of a house fire or catastrophic incident. Chief Januszewski also stated that mutual aid is only called when their backs are against the wall. The Town has a great working relationship with other towns.

GOOD OF FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The statewide drug give back program will be held at Fire Headquarters Saturday, April 30, 2022 from 10-2. Chief Januszewski spoke about the CERT graduation and the leadership which is doing a fantastic job, approximately 50 – 60 members. Lastly, he spoke of a new patch design that will be distributed throughout the membership along with some literature of the patch meaning. He also thanked the firefighter that helped with the new design of this patch.

Chairman Nuzzolillo stated that the Memorial Day parade is scheduled for May 28, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Firefighter Tom Haggerty stated he is the new President of Local 2987 and wanted to introduce himself to the Commission.

Chairman Nuzzolillo congratulated him on his appointment and wished him well on behalf of the Board of Fire Commission and looks forward to working with him

Chairman Nuzzolillo asked if there were any other public comments.

Chief Januszewski wanted to address a public comment that was referenced last month by 3rd Selectwoman Buemi, he asked her to come back this month and wished she was in attendance, regarding end of year stats that were posted on Facebook. He then gave an in-depth description of the specific calls and incidents throughout the year and where the confusion may have occurred.

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 Cappucci to convene an executive session at 6:50 PM.

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

Chairman Nuzzolillo moved to reconvene the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Chairman Nuzzolillo stated when the next Board of Fire Commission would be held and 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 Gallo made a motion, with a second motion from Commissioner Cappucci to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM.

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

Reminder: The next Board of Fire Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 6:00 PM @ Montowese Co2 – Community Room.