

MINUTES

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

A meeting of the North Haven Board of Fire Commission was held on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 6:00 PM @ Montowese Co2, 282 Quinnipiac Ave, North Haven, CT.

Commissioners Present:

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

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 Commissioner Joseph Cappucci.

Chairman Nuzzolillo on behalf of the Board of Fire Commission passed their condolences to the Cappucci family. He was a volunteer, a commissioner of several boards through the years, a town employee and mostly a dedicated North Haven resident who loved this Town and will be deeply missed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Gallo made a motion, with a second motion from Commissioner Caldwell to approve the minutes of the Board of Fire Commission Special Meetings that were held on July 28, 2022, August 23, 2022 and August 25, 2022.

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

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Januszewski discussed his Chief's Report and spoke regarding the following: EMS alarms and highway response billing for Volunteer units; current budget FY 22/23; permit fees received; EMS billing; FY 21/22 budget regarding staffing impact for long term injury contributing to contractual replacing line; fire marshal office details; lastly; apparatus issue.

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

CORRESPONDENCES:

Chief Januszewski stated he had none.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chief Januszewski spoke more about the FY 21/22 budget numbers being over by \$189k and he explained why it was over. Board of Finance stated that these numbers didn't reflect covid when they absolutely did, as well as injury leave for 4.5 months, Juneteenth and back billed for cleaning expenses due to covid and that the Department Heads should be held accountable for going over budget.

Lengthy discussion was had amongst the commissioners regarding last years budget. It was discussed that the fire department should be held to the same standards as Police and Public Works when it comes to revenue coming back into the Town and putting grants and income back on lines to offset their budgets. Chairman Nuzzolillo thanked the public for their support of the fire service and asked that they continue to do so as this town continues to grow with call volume growing as well.

Commissioner Caldwell asked about the population numbers in the Town of North Haven and also about the survey that was discussed by University of New Haven intern Jack Chandler during the July's Board of Fire Commission meeting. Chief Januszewski answered her questions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Januszewski stated that the new Deputy Chief of Operations will be starting Monday, October 3, 2022 and he looks forward to his arrival with a swearing in ceremony to happen in the near future.

GOOD OF FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Januszewski spoke about the Fire Ops that took place at Fire Headquarters and the training center. He thanked the North Haven Professional Firefighters for putting it on and administering the fire ops program last Saturday. It took a lot of planning on their part and it was a good success. Their dedication to the citizens of North Haven doesn't go unnoticed.

Brief discussion was had amongst the commissioners regarding the fire ops program. It was very knowledgeable and the power point demonstration was very informative and they hope that the video could be shared with the public. Chairman Nuzzolillo thanked each and every participant for their time to get educated and to Local 2987 for doing a fantastic job. Firefighters do God's work and this commission has a deep appreciation for what they do on a daily basis.

Chief Januszewski continued on with the Good of the Fire Department and thanked the CERT team for all their efforts all summer long; Captain David Obier will be retiring after 38+ years in the fire service; he spoke of the volunteer status and responses within North Haven and their commitment to the department; lastly, he spoke of the Explorer program.

Chairman Nuzzolillo thanked all the volunteer firefighters who have donated thousands of hours and years to this Town and the Town certainly benefited through the years but times have changed. He stated that this Board will continue the urgency to bring more firefighter's on board for the safety and protection of our residents and visitors of the Town of North Haven.

Commissioner Caldwell asked about electric vehicles and how difficult it is to put fires out on them. Chief Januszewski stated it is a real issue and they are all aware of it and looking to put an SOG together. He has ordered a reusable multi-purpose blanket that should help with electrical vehicle fires. Lastly, he has to watch when it comes to moving that vehicle by a tow truck to a facility that it won't reignite. Brief discussion followed this conversation by commissioners.

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 Mulligan to convene an executive session at 7:10 PM.

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

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

Commissioner Mulligan made a motion, with a second motion from Commissioner Caldwell to accept Eva-Larue Barber and David Cohen as probationary members of West Ridge Co3, effective immediately.

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

Commissioner Mulligan made a motion, with a second motion from Commissioner Gallo to accept Ronnie Robinson as a probationary member of West Ridge Co3, pending medical clearance.

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

Chairman Nuzzolillo asked if there were any further business. 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 – yes, Gallo – yes, Caldwell – yes

Reminder: The next regular Board of Fire Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 6:00 PM @ Montowese Co2.