

MINUTES

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING APRIL 16, 2024

A meeting of the North Haven Board of Fire Commission was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 6:00 PM @ Montowese Co2, 282 Quinnipiac Ave, North Haven, CT.

Commissioner's Present:

Pasquale Nuzzolillo, Chairman
Mary Jane Mulligan, Secretary
Jennie Caldwell, Commissioner
Patricia Brown, Commissioner

Commissioner's Absent:

Vincenzo Gallo, Vice Chairman

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 Brown to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commission that was held on March 19, 2024.

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

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Januszewski discussed his Chief's Report and spoke regarding the following: EMS alarms dispatched; current budget FY 23/24 79.1% spent thus far; permit fees received; ALS billing fees received from Finance; leased engine and old foam disposal; staffing shortages discussed; lastly, Fire Marshal-Inspector's Office report activity discussed.

Chairman Nuzzolillo asked if anyone had any questions regarding the Chief's report. A brief discussion was had regarding the Chief's report with the commissioners.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Chief Januszewski stated that he had nothing. Commissioners had no correspondence either.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chief Januszewski spoke about old business. Chief Januszewski stated the two (2) new engines are expected to be delivered by next month's Board of Fire Commission meeting in May 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Januszewski stated that he had nothing.

GOOD OF FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Januszewski spoke about the Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service and thanked all that attended. It was well embraced by the families and the department. This ceremony will be done on an annual basis moving forward; the recruit firefighter will be graduating on May 22, 2024, from the CT Fire Academy; lastly, operations were discussed with the commission regarding volunteer standby and restructuring the commercial fire alarm responses.

A brief discussion was had amongst the commissioners regarding volunteers and changes to operations.

Chairman Nuzzolillo stated it is a sign of the times with the reduction of our volunteers and no availability to respond but unfortunately, they can't. This was discussed at the recent Town budget meeting held last week with comments made that without the volunteers we will need to rely on the paid staff for those emergencies. He's hopeful that the Board of Finance members and the First Selectman and residents that were in attendance heard our message and other residents that spoke in support of public safety and consider hiring more personnel for fire service. He asked that the public get out to the next Board of Finance meeting and voice their interest in restoring the 4 firefighters to our budget and add to the mill rate whatever that will be for their benefit.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nancy Barrett – 1 Crestview Drive member of the Board of Finance but there as a resident. She had a couple of questions for Chief Januszewski regarding structure fires in 2022 and 2023; calculations of overlapping calls including those answered by Nelson Ambulance; change to the average response time to the career firefighters; STEEP Grant and 6 bays added at Northeast Co4; current budget; paramedic program; vehicle maintenance and repairs; technology; lastly, she then had something to share with everyone. She handed out an analysis chart she created with the total of 911 calls to all members present regarding increase/decrease of responses total number of calls – subtracting Nelson Ambulance responses and the net number of calls after that.

A lengthy discussion was had with Chief Paul Januszewski answering her questions and concerns as well as the Commissioners interjecting their responses and a discrepancy regarding total 911 calls including the Nelson responses to call volumes when they are excluded. Commissioner Caldwell lastly stated that Chief Januszewski is just being honest with the public, he is not using scare tactics, just speaking truth in the facts. Chairman Nuzzolillo stated he appreciated her opinions as a resident of the Town but as a resident he doesn't agree with her opinions nor does this commission.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman Nuzzolillo asked for a motion to move into executive session.

Commissioner Mulligan made a motion, with a second motion from Commissioner Caldwell, to convene an executive session at 7:03 PM.

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

Chairman Nuzzolillo moved to reconvene the meeting at 7:37 PM.

Chairman Nuzzolillo stated having no further business to come before the Board of Fire Commission, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Mulligan made a motion, with a second motion from Commissioner Caldwell, to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 PM.

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

Reminder: Please note the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Fire Commission will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 6:00 PM @ Montowese Co2.