

MINUTES

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MARCH 19, 2024

A meeting of the North Haven Board of Fire Commission was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 6:00 PM @ Montowese Co2, 282 Quinnipiac Ave, North Haven, CT.

Commissioner's Present:

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

Commissioner's Absent:

Staff Present:

Paul Januszewski, Fire Chief

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Gallo made a motion, with a second motion from Commissioner Mulligan to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commission that was held on February 20, 2024.

VOTE: Nuzzolillo – yes, Gallo – yes, 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 69.2% spent thus far; permit fees received; ALS billing fees received from Finance; 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. Commissioner Caldwell asked about the snow plowing service which is currently being outsourced at three (3) stations with the costs being taken out of central facilities. Public Works does plow and sand Fire Headquarters lot but not the other stations; why not plow all stations since they are all town buildings. Discussion was had about what the costs will be and how it will affect the fire department if added into next year's 24/25 budget. Chief Januszewski stated it's not a concern if central facilities line goes down and they add those monies over to the fire department budget line to cover those costs.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Chief Januszewski stated he had not received any correspondence over the past month. Chairman Nuzzolillo stated the commission had received an email from a resident regarding the proposed ordinance "Line of Duty Death". Commissioner Caldwell summarized the email the town resident sent, and a brief discussion was then had amongst the commissioners and Chief Januszewski regarding the language for fire personnel defining line of duty death. Chairman Nuzzolillo stated that the Board of Selectman's meeting tabled this discussion until the April meeting. He's hopeful that at the next Board of Selectman's meeting more residents, firefighters and police officers will come in and voice their opinions as well as the Boards and Commissions too.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chief Januszewski spoke about old business. Chief Januszewski stated the apparatus continues to struggle and maintain a fleet with repairs and out of service apparatus due to the age of the fleet, Truck 2 has been out of service for over a month waiting on parts. Lastly, he stated the two (2) new engines are expected to be delivered in May 2024 that should stabilize the fleet and then the department will be able to relinquish the leased apparatus currently being used that costs the budget \$3,000 a month.

A brief discussion was had amongst the commissioners regarding the apparatus and Commissioner Caldwell spoke about putting a committee together to work on the Rules & Regs of the career firefighters in the coming months. Chief Januszewski stated that he is currently working on job descriptions now and that is more pressing than the rules and regulations. Once that is wrapped up, they will move forward with the language of the rules and regulations.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Januszewski stated that he had nothing.

GOOD OF FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Januszewski discussed the Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service which will be held on Sunday, April 7, 2024, 1:00PM at Fire Headquarters rain or shine. Families will be in attendance and all commissioners are welcome to attend; ordinance proposal which was already discussed; lastly, a staff meeting was held with the volunteers last week and he thanked the commissioners that attended that meeting. Chief Januszewski spoke of how we are in a crisis at this time as he discussed at his recent budget presentation. He discussed how many current active volunteer firefighters the department has at this time 16 in total; if we do not increase career staffing then the burden on volunteer firefighters will be more now than ever; what it would look like if the department combined the two (2) volunteer stations; lastly, stacking calls, if volunteers can't get out, until a career unit clears and the apparatus is available to respond to the next stacked call.

A lengthy discussion was had amongst the commissioners regarding incidents, call volume and volunteers making those calls.

Chairman Nuzzolillo stated that the public is forewarned depending on what is approved in this upcoming budget. Without hiring more career personnel, this will be a serious problem. It is important for the public to voice their opinion as to how they want their public safety to respond on their behalf. Especially if the calls get stacked and they can't get out to your home quickly.

Chairman Nuzzolillo thanked Chief Januszewski for being very transparent and very clear as to what our capabilities are and what the stress is with only 16 volunteers to supplement our paid staff. Our town is no longer the town that it was 5-10 years ago with all the economic development and apartments built on Washington Avenue and around Town there is significant risks that could cause major issues in the event of an emergency. The public needs to speak up during the next Town of North Haven public meeting as to what Public Safety should be provided to keep our Town safe.

PUBLIC COMMENT / EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman Nuzzolillo stated with no public in attendance he asked for a motion to move into executive session.

Commissioner Gallo made a motion, with a second motion from Commissioner Mulligan, to convene an executive session at 6:48 PM.

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

Chairman Nuzzolillo moved to reconvene the meeting at 7:02 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 Gallo, to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 PM.

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

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