



BRANFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Board of Fire Commissioners



MINUTES

October 26, 2006

The October meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on October 26, 2006 at the Canoe Brook Senior Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

PRESENT – Chairman Massey, Commissioners Clem, LaCroix, Riccio, Fox, Chief Ahern and Asst. Chief Heffernan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – A motion was made by Commissioner Carfora to approve the minutes of October 18, 2006. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous. A motion was made by Commissioner Fox to approve the minutes of August 31, 2006. Seconded by Commissioner Carfora. Vote unanimous.

FINANCE – Chief Ahern reported that most accounts are in fairly good shape. Overtime will be deferred until later on in the meeting. °Regarding the transfers to be addressed at the Public Services meeting next Wednesday, he will need a member of the Board to accompany him.

PERSONNEL – Per the Chief, three men are out injured.

TRAINING – An extended welcome from the Board to Asst. Chief Heffernan and Captain Judd. °Training on some of the apparatus is now being handled by Captain Judd. °Captain Judd reported that he had just spoken with DC Klarman and was made aware that the NIMs training and compliance is incomplete. He will check more thoroughly into the situation tomorrow.

APPARATUS – Commissioner LaCroix commented that Truck 1 has significant maintenance costs. He would like to see the purchase of a new ladder truck moved up due to these maintenance costs being incurred to date. °The new fire rescue boat is now complete and will be delivered next Tuesday. Commissioner LaCroix commended the committee that worked on this project and Chairman Massey thanked Commissioner LaCroix for all the time he put into this project. The new boat will be known as Marine 5.

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EMS – Commissioner Fox reported an increase in ambulance revenues this year of 17.36% over last year. °Per AC Heffernan, there was a 4% decrease for the month and 28 calls were passed onto CMED since July 1, 2006. Currently 8% below projected amount for fiscal year. During the month of October there were 14 part-time unfilled shifts for Medic 3 and 12 in November. He feels that it is this lack of staffing that is the contributing factor. He would like to go out and hire some part-time paramedics, but the rate of pay is another problem. The town has not gone up in quite a while, and he would like to propose that the EMT salary go from \$13.60 to \$17.00 hourly. Paramedics would go from \$18.30 to \$19.50 hourly. These increases would bring the department right up to other area towns. A proposal was made to eliminate Thursday evening shift from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and redirect from that shift to the new pay increases. AC Heffernan would offer the openings to within the department before going outside. Commissioner Fox made a motion to accept the recommendations and discontinue the Thursday night shift staffing of Medic 3 and redirect the monies to the new pay rates effective November 1, 2006. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix.
Vote unanimous.

BUILDINGS – Commissioner Carfora reported that the committee is moving forward. They are working with the architectural firm on the possible land development. Per the Chief, progress is being made.

PENSION AND COMMUNICATIONS – Per Commissioner Clem, the pension committee along with Chief Ahern, AC Heffernan and Captain Judd all met to brainstorm about the pension. Stipend checks have been going out over the summer. Some changes/proposals from the Chief's office will be reviewed by the pension committee before going to the Board of Selectmen. Volunteers are still being lost, and hopefully change will help to hold onto some of them.

CHIEF'S REPORT – Chief Ahern would like to thank everyone involved with Fire Prevention month. DC Pepe was in contact with the YMCA and came up with a fundraiser that raised a substantial amount of money for them. °With the two new promotions of AC Heffernan and Captain Judd both have dived right into their work and have been nonstop. It has been very noticeable around the fire house. Positive comments have been made by both career and volunteer staff. °The five year plan to replace Truck 1 in 2011 no longer appears to be realistic due to the incurred maintenance costs. There is also a five year plan in effect to replace the pumper, but with the acquisition of

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Engine 7 the Chief no longer sees the need for that replacement. Instead it is recommended to replace Truck 1. Per the Chief, it will be a huge undertaking to spec out the truck, looking for vendors, etc. and he does not think we should wait until 2011. °Six shifts are becoming harder and harder to fill due to vacancies and injuries out. The Chief suggests we hire utility firefighters and the money would be transferred out of the salary account. He will post internally first. Commissioner Fox made a motion to authorize the Chief to develop a pool of utility personnel and direct money from the salary account to that particular line item to fill in on shifts as needed. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Vote unanimous.

ASST. CHIEF'S REPORT – Per AC Heffernan, there has been an increase in the amount of inspections of existing businesses and buildings in town and a recent influx of plan reviews in the past month. °There will be a Fire Marshal Certification course beginning in April, 2007. A motion was made by Commissioner LaCroix to approve as written the pre-certification course for Deputy Fire Marshal. Seconded by Commissioner Carfora. Vote unanimous. °The department has received 22 applications for the position of firefighter. The next step would be to schedule interviews. °The electronic run forms on the medic units have been fully implemented.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS – Commissioner Fox commented that developers coming into the community have standards they are to follow and that our department is guided by the National Fire Protection Association. She would like to see a potential ordinance and set of regulations made to standardize safety and then have these developers come before us first before starting any projects. Chairman Massey suggested that AC Heffernan come up with a draft and present at the January meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – A motion was made by Commissioner Carfora to go into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Vote unanimous. A motion was made by Commissioner Carfora to go back into regular session at 9:45 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Vote unanimous. Commissioner Fox made a motion to accept with regret the resignation of Gene Hayes as Captain effective October 30, 2006. He will return to firefighter status. Seconded by Commissioner Carfora. Vote unanimous. °A motion was made by Commissioner Carfora to add to the agenda the appointment of a new Captain to replace the above

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vacancy. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous. °A motion was made by Commissioner Carfora to appoint FF Joe Petrosino as that new Captain. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote four yes and one abstain. Motion carries.

ADJOURNMENT - A motion was made by Commissioner Carfora to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. King
Clerk of the Board