



BRANFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT



Board of Fire Commissioners

Canoe Brook Senior Center
August 26, 2004

Minutes

Present – Chairman Massey, Commissioners Riccio, Clem, Cafora, Fox, LaCroix, Chief Ahern.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Commissioner Clem and seconded by Commissioner Riccio to accept the minutes. Approved unanimously.

Finance – Commissioner Riccio made a motion to approve line item transfers in the FY 2003-2004 budget. These transfers reflect actual expenditures in that fiscal year and do not include any requests to transfer funds from the Town Contingency Fund. The motion was seconded by Commissioner LaCroix and approved unanimously. A list of these transfers is appended to these minutes.

Personnel – Chairman Massey reported that D/C Klarman is retiring effective 8/30/04. A luncheon will be held in his honor on August 30 at Fire Headquarters.

Training – Commissioner Clem reported that she had met with D/C Andrew and discussed the training needs for the dive team as well as for confined space training. She indicated that there could be budgetary impact as overtime would be necessary to permit scheduling firefighters for this training.

Apparatus – Commissioner LaCoix reported that bids for the new Engine 1 were opened on 8/8/04. He recommended that the Commission accept the bid of Shmiel Fire Apparatus. Chief Ahern reported that the engine could be maintained locally by New England Fire Apparatus in North Haven, CT. Firefighter Petrosino reported, on behalf of the truck committee, that they were supportive of accepting this bid. He and other personnel had visited the North Haven facility and were impressed with the quality of that facility. The engine will come with a 100% warranty for a final cost of \$295,756. A motion to accept this bid was made by Commissioner Fox and seconded by Commissioner Clem. Approved unanimously.

EMS – Commissioner Fox reported that she had met with Chief Ahern and discussed the types of data needed to accurately reflect the number of calls for service which are diverted to other towns or ambulances services because our ambulances are not available. C-MED data is available which shows all calls dispatched for our services and those which required an alternative responder. Commissioner Fox will work with Chief Ahern to finalize the job description for the Fire Surgeon. Dr. Bogucki is unavailable as she is doing a fellowship. During her absence, Karen Van Gelder MD, who is also an emergency room physician will perform her duties.

Buildings – no report

Pensions and Communications – Commissioner Clem reported that letters had been sent to Co.5 and Co. 9 regarding the lateness of their monthly reports for pension. There has been no response to date and the Chief indicated that he would attend the company meetings to discuss this issue if a response was not received in the near future.

Chief's Report – Further repair is needed for Medic 1 as the original repair failed to address the misalignment of the body with the cab. We have notified the company making the repairs and will withhold payment until all work is complete.

Deputy Fire Marshall Heffernan has proposed an ordinance relating to the maintenance of fire hydrants on private property. At the present time, the Town has no authority to require maintenance on private roads and in some areas, residents have even repainted them using different colors. All hydrants in the Town are now loaded onto the GPS system and the Fire Marshall will have the ability to track them. There was considerable discussion of the size and type of fine which could be proposed in this ordinance for failure to maintain hydrants. There was also consideration of notifying insurance carriers in areas where this was occurring. It was decided to table this item until we could contact the Regional Water Authority, who will provide hydrant maintenance, and determine the cost of having them do so. This should be available next month.

The test for Firefighter/Paramedic is scheduled for next month at the Branford Community House. The cut-off date for applications is September 1.

Old Business – There was no old business.

New Business – The Board received a request from Co. 5 requesting approval of their fund raising drive. A motion was made by Commissioner Clem and seconded by Commissioner Riccio and this item was approved unanimously.

The Board also received a request from M. P. Rice for approval of their appearance at a Fire Convention Parade in Cromwell. Providing that usual procedures for this type of appearance are followed, a motion approving their appearance was made by Commissioner Clem, seconded by Commissioner Cafora and approved unanimously.

Captain Kevin McMillan presented a request by the Branford Fire Police Squad to amend their by-laws changing their status from a Squad to a Company and eliminating the requirement that members must have two years of Fire Department membership before joining the Fire Police. This would allow non-fire personnel to be present at fire scenes. The Fire Police are proposing this change as device to improve their recruitment. There was considerable discussion of the merits of these changes including the need to consult with the Police Department around potential union issues if these changes are made. The item was tabled, pending consultation with the Police Department and Captain McMillan's research of surrounding towns to determine if any others use this model.

A/C DaRos reported on his work assessing the fire suppression needs in local marinas and on the Thimble Islands. He indicated that the cost of Fire Hydrants would likely be prohibitive. Instead, he indicated that he is learning that most marinas use standpipes with very long supplies of hose. He will continue his research and intends to have further discussion with John McMahan at Bruce and Johnson's marina about this issue. Chief Ahern reported that Emergency Management Personnel from the State of Connecticut had toured the islands today aboard Marine 5. He indicated that they had never seen the Thimble Islands before. There was considerable discussion of their very high insurance rating, the possibility of funding for fire protection on the islands and the need for hydrants on the highest of the islands, High Island and Horse Island, which are out of reach of the hoses on Marine 5. Money Island has its own volunteer company, which drills regularly with Marine 5. Chief DaRos will continue his work and report further to the Board.

At 8:35 PM, Chairman Massey moved that the Board go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riccio and approved unanimously. The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:45. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Riccio and seconded by Commissioner Cafora. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kathleen Fox
Fire Commissioner

Branford Fire Department Proposed Line Item Transfers for ending Fiscal 2003-2004

From:

4204-424.10-29	Deputy Chiefs	\$230.00
4204-424.10-40	Firefighters	\$18,865.00
4204-424.10-44	Medic 2 Shifts	\$1,928.00
4204-424.10-48	Utility	\$1,248.00
4204-424.10-91	Vacation	\$293.00
4204-424.10-92	Holiday	\$1,942.00
4204-424.15-00	Accured Payroll	\$122.00
4204-424.30-00	Admin Expense	\$670.00
4204-424.32-01	Physicals	\$1,266.00
4204-424.40-01	Building Repairs	\$6,526.00
4204-424.41-01	Service Contracts	\$551.00
4204-424.41-03	Equipment R&M	\$3,367.00
4204-424.41-13	C-Med	\$4,657.00
4204-424.42-02	Electricity	\$13,332.00
4204-424.42-09	Hydrants	\$3,284.00
4204-424.58-02	Uniforms	\$1,270.00
4204-424.58-04	Fire Investigation	\$716.00
4204-424.58-06	Stewards	\$834.00
4204-424.58-07	On Call	\$10,697.00
4204-424.61-01	Operating Supplies	\$5,419.00
4204-424.61-15	Medical Supplies	\$3,626.00
4204-424.62-01	Postage	\$1,630.00
4204-424.70-11	Volunteer Equip	\$19,996.00
4204-424.70-13	GX7 Suits	\$3,187.00
4204-424.70-90	Medical Equipment	\$7,200.00

Total \$112,856.00

To:

4204-424.10-38	Special Detail	\$149.00
4204-424.10-51	Asst. Chief F/M	\$500.00
4204-424.10-90	Overtime	\$52,358.00
4204-424.10-93	Sick	\$10,765.00
4204-424.10-94	Education Incentive	\$18,385.00
4204-424.33-03	Ambulance billing	\$28,933.00
4204-424.54-01	Membership Meetings	\$180.00
4204-424.58-01	Training and Education	\$1,586.00

Total \$112,856.00