



BRANFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Board of Fire Commissioners

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2004 DEC -6 A 11:21

MINUTES

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November 18, 2004

The October meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on November 18, 2004 at the Canoe Brook Senior Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

PRESENT – Chairman Massey, Commissioners Carfora, Clem, Fox, LaCroix, Riccio, Chief Ahern and Assistant Chief DaRos.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – A motion was made by Commissioner Fox to approve the minutes of October 28, 2004. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. All approved. A correction to the October minutes should read "all the files at Tweed Training Center" were shredded, not Tweed Airport.

Before the meeting began Dave Jacobs, Unit Commander of the Boy Scouts of America presented Chief Ahern with a plaque of appreciation. Chief Ahern provided men and equipment to the Boy Scouts at their Camporee held in October of 2003. With the chief's assistance an opportunity was provided to the Scouts to earn the Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge required for the rank of Eagle Scout.

FINANCE – The overtime and sick accounts are depleted. The chief will prepare a transfer for the Boards approval at their December meeting to go before the Board of Finance.

PERSONNEL – The Firefighter exam and oral review have been completed. The Board will interview the top six (6) candidates at their next meeting on December 16, 2004.

TRAINING – No report.

APPARATUS – Truck 1 is out of service, the pistons in the tower need replaced. Engine 10 is also out of service.

EMS – Commissioner Fox met with Captain Murray to discuss obtaining call volume data from the CAD system. This information will show how many fire calls occur simultaneously when both ambulances are out on a call.

BUILDINGS – The new hardwood floor at Station 9 has been completed. Janice Plazniak will be securing bids for a new exhaust system at headquarters. The old system has never worked properly.

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RE: FIRE COMMISSION MEETING – November 18, 2004

CORRESPONDENCE – Two letters were received from the public and read by Commissioner Clem.

CHIEF'S REPORT – The new radio system is completed and working nicely. The department now has two (2) frequencies. The second frequency gives us the capability to communicate with the police department and neighboring towns. Department members will need to be trained on the new system. The chief mentioned that DC Mullen and family are appearing on Channel 8 news on November the 22 with a segment on smoke detectors. Assistant Chief Andrew and Human Resources are thanked for preparing the written test and oral board review for the firefighter position. Truck 1 and the Explorer Post held a "Fill the Truck" day at the A & P for the Branford Food Bank. Capt. Tom Coon and personnel are to be commended. Approximately \$600 was raised in addition to the food collected.

Deputy Fire Marshal Heffernan has proposed a new hydrant ordinance to the town. This ordinance covers the maintenance on all hydrants. In the past the condo associations were not maintaining the hydrants on private property. A motion was made by Commissioner Riccio to approve the ordinance to be sent to the RTM and to raise the fine to \$1000.00 for violations. Seconded by Commissioner Carfora, all approved. The Knox box ordinance approved by the Board earlier this year is still sitting in Rules and Ordinance RTM sub-committee. Chairman Massey will send a letter to the RTM regarding this important issue.

OLD BUSINESS – Members of the Fire Police returned regarding the request for changes to the Fire Police by-laws. After discussion by Board members, Chairman Massey suggested a change to the by-laws under "new membership". He asked members of the Fire Police to return to the Board after the New Year. Commissioner Clem will meet with the Pension Committee to discuss this possible change and report back in January.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – A motion was made by Commissioner Fox to go into executive session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. Seconded by Commissioner Riccio, all approved. Board members and Chief Ahern were present.

ADJOURNMENT - The Board returned to regular session at 9:31 p.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Riccio to adjourn at 9:32 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Clem, all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeline Y. Clem

Madeline Y. Clem
Commissioner