

# **TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD**

## **Board of Fire Commissioners**

### **MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING, COMPANY 2**

**JANUARY 8, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER/SALUTE TO THE FLAG:** Chairman Prunier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**ROLL CALL:** Chairman Ed Prunier, Vice-Chairman Joseph Civitello and Commissioners Robert LaTorraca and Neill Salamack. Commissioner William DellaCamera was absent. **OTHERS:** Officers: Chief Richard Lennon, Assistant Chiefs Anthony Esposito and Robert Colangelo, Deputy Chiefs Tom Hart and John McFarland, Deputy Fire Marshal John O'Brien, Captains James Buda and Arthur Hausman and Justin Wilbur, and Interim Town Manager Rory Burke, Mayor Rose Angeloni and Council liaison Craig Miller.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:** Commissioner Civitello nominated Commissioner Prunier as temporary Chairman. Commissioner LaTorraca seconded the motion and on roll call vote, all in favor. Temporary Chairman Prunier called for nominations of Chairman. Commissioner Civitello nominated Commissioner Prunier as Chairman and Commissioner LaTorraca seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all in favor. Commissioner Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Salamack, to close the nominations for Chairman. On roll call vote, all in favor. The clerk cast one ballot for Chairman. Chairman Prunier called for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Chairman Prunier nominated Commissioner Civitello and Commissioner LaTorraca seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all in favor. Chairman Prunier made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaTorraca, to close the nominations for Vice-Chairman. On roll call vote, all in favor. The clerk cast one ballot for Vice-Chairman. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaTorraca to nominate Diane Whalen as Clerk. On roll call vote, all in favor. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaTorraca, to close the nominations. On roll call vote, all in favor.

### **SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR DEPUTY CHIEFS TOM HART AND JOHN**

**McFARLAND:** Chief Lennon provided welcome remarks regarding the promotions of Tom Hart and John McFarland to the positions of Deputy Chiefs. He mentioned that John McFarland has over three decades of service including being a paramedic and firefighter. He is promoted to Deputy Chief of EMS. Chief Lennon mentioned that Tom Hart has over 30 years with the Department including Company Captain. Tom Hart is promoted to Deputy Chief of Training. He stated that both are knowledgeable and dedicated to the Department. Mayor Angeloni administered the oath of office to Deputy Chief McFarland and Deputy Chief Hart. They were congratulated by all in attendance including the Board, family and friends.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Commissioner Salamack made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaTorraca, to approve the Minutes from the December 4, 2025 Regular Meeting. All in favor of the roll call vote.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS' REPORTS:** Reports were received and distributed from Chief Richard Lennon and Assistant Chiefs Anthony Esposito and Robert Colangelo. The monthly Fire

Marshal Report for December was distributed listing 233 calls for the month as well as the yearly report of 2332 calls for 2025.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Communications: Chairman Prunier noted that there will be a meeting on January 14. Pension: Commissioner Salamack noted that there was a pension meeting December 10<sup>th</sup> for the year-end recap. The next meeting will be held in February.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF:** Chief Lennon noted that there was mutual aid to Durham. He informed the Board that the firehouses were staffed during the winter storm. He provided information on the status of various apparatus. He noted that Ambulance 42 had general maintenance performed but will require additional repairs soon. Ambulance 45 is out of service permanently and most of the equipment has been removed. He inquired of the Board as to whether they would approve of purchasing a used ambulance as two are staffed 24/7 and the other two were used as standbys. It was determined that there is \$91,616 available in the apparatus fund. A question was raised as to whether the Town Council would approve of the Board using up to a certain amount without going to the Council when they found a used ambulance. The next Council meeting isn't until January 20<sup>th</sup> and a used ambulance might be found prior to that meeting. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Salamack, to approve spending \$91,500 or less for a used ambulance. On roll call vote, all in favor. The Board asked Councilor Miller to speak to Council members and possibly schedule a special meeting to approve the expenditure. The Chief also noted that the hazmat meters have been received as have the extrication tools. He has updated the radio call signs and CAD designations to coincide with the changes made to the command staff.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** **a. Discussion/Action re: RFP Ambulance Billing:** The Chief indicated that he just received the information and there are two bids. **b. Discussion/Action re: Vehicle Maintenance:** The Chief received one bid for vehicle maintenance. The bids will be discussed at the next meeting. Vice-Chairman Civitello made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaTorraca, to table both discussions on the bids. On roll call vote, all in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None. Assistant Chief Esposito noted that EJ Boughton might be interested in purchasing Ambulance 45 to use as his service truck. He inquired if the Board would be agreeable to selling it to him. The Board indicated that EJ Boughton could make an offer and the Board would consider it.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Cliff Potter felt that the families of the appointees should be acknowledged. The possibility of a family picnic was discussed. Assistant Chief Esposito informed the Board that the Zion Episcopal Church would contribute \$1000 towards a picnic. It was noted that Town Line Wine and Spirits donated \$2500 to the department.

**WELFARE OF THE COMMISSION:** Vehicle maintenance bids, the RFP for ambulance billing and the budget will be discussed in February.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Civitello and seconded by Commissioner Salamack to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. All in favor of the roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

*Diane B. Whalen*

Diane B. Whalen, Board Clerk