

M.P. Rice Hose Company № 2
341 Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

Short Beach Hose Hook & Ladder Company 4
64 Shore Drive
Short Beach, CT 06405

Tuesday, March 14th, 2023

Thomas F. Mahoney, Jr., Chief of the Department
Branford Fire Department
45 North Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

Dear Chief Mahoney:

Disintegration of the district communities and decreasing numbers of volunteers

As you are already aware, volunteerism is declining and has impacted the Branford Fire Department. Three volunteer companies have ceased operations in the past 30 - 40 years. Pine Orchard Company 6 and Indian Neck Company 9 merged/consolidated into Indian Neck-Pine Orchard Company 9, Headquarters Company 8 disbanded, and Branford Fire Department Hook and Ladder Company 1 has become a social organization only, no longer staffing any fire apparatus.

All four of the active volunteer companies are suffering staffing/membership issues.

On Wednesday, January 04th, 2023, at the Volunteer Officers' Meeting, Chief Mahoney directed/requested the four volunteer companies to work together in getting the dispatched district engine on-the-air for assignments.

As discussed in the meeting, the decrease in people willing to volunteer as firefighters combined with the fact that current volunteers no longer necessarily live within the communities where they volunteer is contributing to long delays in getting the district engines to respond, if at all. Additionally, in the time it takes BFD volunteers to get to their respective stations and get the apparatus responding is in many cases longer than it takes for career units to respond to the scene and clear the assignment.

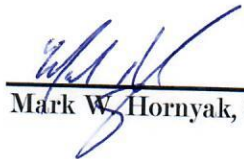
Additionally, district responses may no longer be the optimal method for responding to medical calls. Many, if not most times, headquarters' units will be on scene before the volunteer district company can assemble a crew.

Proposal: Companies 2 and 4 to be combined for operational purposes on a trial basis

On a trial basis, Companies 2 and 4 will work together to achieve minimum staffing for Engines 2 and 4 collectively. The Companies' response districts will remain as currently mapped. The object will be to staff Engine 2 first/as primary because of the Companies' collective memberships' proximity to Station 2. Excess crew will respond with Engine 4 if/as available. We ask that it be permitted that Engine 2 respond to assignments for Engine 4, and vice versa, without it being considered "freelancing." The goal is to increase the number of volunteer responses for the two Companies' districts. The Companies' members will coordinate their responses through the use of Active911 and text/voice messaging.

Companies 2 and 4 will still operate independently for social purposes.

Respectfully,


Mark W. Hornyak, Captain


Michael A. Aquino, Captain