

Town of Hamden
Fire Commission Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
Memorial Town Hall at 2372 Whitney Avenue, Hamden

A regular meeting of the Hamden Fire Commission opened on January 8, 2020 at the Hamden Memorial Town Hall, located at 2372 Whitney Avenue, in MTH-111 conference room.

Commissioners in Attendance: Oswald Brown, Eric Curtis, and James O'Brien. Absent: Henry Candido. Also in Attendance: Clerk for the Commission Patrice LeMoine.

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. O'Brien called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. For the record, a quorum was present.
2. **Public/Media Comments on the Fire Commission:** nothing was presented.
3. **Message from the Vice-Chair of the Fire Commission:** Mr. O'Brien asked Fire Chief Merwede for an update and message from Mr. Candido. Unfortunately, Mr. Candido could not attend this evening's meeting and we all hope he gets well and see him at the end of January.

Fire Chief Merwede met with a resident who wrote and thanked the emergency team for coming to her aid. As a way for her appreciation, the resident made a donation of \$40,000 to the fire department. The department will use the funds to order equipment and in particular the jaws of life.

Fire Chief Merwede noted the upcoming promotions and the calendar commitments. At the January 29 special meeting, we will interview candidates for Firefighter Paramedics positions. Those new hires will begin their formal training the week of February 10. On February 12 we will hold interviews for Certified Firefighters positions.

4. **Executive Session:** Mr. O'Brien requested a motion to go into session for the purpose of conducting interviews for two Fire Inspector vacancies. At 6:06 p.m. Mr. Curtis motioned, and Mr. Brown seconded to go into session. The motion passed unanimously. At this time, Ms. LeMoine withdrew from the meeting.

At 6:45 p.m. Ms. LeMoine entered the meeting. Mr. O'Brien then requested a motion to end the executive session. Mr. Curtis motioned to end executive session and Mr. Brown seconded. The motion passed.

At this time the Fire Commissioners presented the outcome of their decision from executive session to appoint Paul A. Turner and Raymond Pouncey to Fire Inspectors. The date of their swearing-in ceremony will be scheduled for the end of January or early February.

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5. **Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Curtis motioned to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2019 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and passed unanimously.
6. **Department Reports from the Fire Chief:** Fire Chief Merwede presented the various reports for December. He presented and discussed the Fire Marshall's report; training officer's report. Training Officer Lennon included in his report the ALS Protocol Response service. The new system is in place and the department did not have to attend 91 calls last month. Those calls from the medical practices and nursing homes were provided by ambulance only service. Also enclosed was a year-end Run report, which reflects an average of 29 calls per day.
7. **New Business:**
 - a. Presentation of department budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. Fire Chief Merwede presented the proposed budget, which includes a 4.8% increase over this year's budget. The total budget equates to a \$4.32 per week cost to the taxpayers; a proposed budget totaling \$13,760,743.85. The proposed budget include contractual costs and the goals of the department. The department would like to expand the pool of employment for the future and include in the budget the purchase of ordering protective gear for the firefighters. This is to reduce the risk of the firefighters of carcinogen exposure. Each firefighter needs two sets of gear. One to be cleaned while the other is being worn in a fire emergency.
8. **Old Business:** Nothing to report.
9. **Next meeting:** regular meeting on Wednesday, January 29, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
10. **Adjournment:** With nothing further to discuss, Mr. O'Brien requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Curtis seconded, and all were in favor.

Submitted by:

s/Patrice A. LeMoine

Clerk for the Commission