

**Hamden Fire Commissioners  
Administration Building, in the Large Conference Room  
Minutes of the Meeting of October 14, 2009**

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**In Attendance:** Henry Candido, Michael D'Andrea, Robert LaToracca, Richard Reilly, and Duane Wetmore. **Also in Attendance:** Fire Chief David Berardesca.

**Call to Order:** Chairman, H. Candido called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Attendance was confirmed and then the agenda was reviewed.

**Minutes:** H. Candido requested a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2009 meeting. **D. Wetmore made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**Correspondence:** Fire Chief Berardesca shared with the Commissioners a copy of a letter addressed to the Fire Department. The party thanked the Emergency and Rescue crew for assisting this person who was at Sleeping Giant Park. The party got stranded after dark at the top of Park's Mountain. The Fire Chief noted that there has been quite of few of these instances with the hour of dusk arriving earlier over the month, hikers don't realize until they are near to top or returning down the mountain that there is limited visibility.

**Department Report:** H. Candido asked the members of the Commission to review the activity reports from the Fire Marshal and Training/EMS for the month of September. A discussion was held regarding the response time to emergencies in the southern part of Dixwell Avenue while Station 4 is down. Fire Chief Berardesca noted the Maintenance and Repairs report has been delayed due to the Director out for a death in the family.

The Commissioners thanked Fire Chief Berardesca for his report.

**Public/Media Comments on Agenda:** Nothing to report.

**Executive Session:** Nothing scheduled or to present.

**Old Business:** Fire Headquarters update—Fire Chief Berardesca said the Town Council unanimously passed the submission of a federal RFP (Request for Proposal) for construction to develop the fire headquarters. Now the Town has to work on compiling the information for the RFP application and meet the deadline, which may be due in two weeks. He is not sure who will be appointed to complete the RFP on behalf of the Fire Department. The Commissioners held a discussion about the procedures and what information needs to be obtained by the various departments in order to complete the RFP. The RFP is too valuable for the Department and we can't afford to miss the deadline.

The progress of the new fire headquarters is too slow, and the Department has been working on this project for close to two years. Not much has been accomplished since then, and two stations have been uprooted leaving more pressure and higher risk in providing emergency coverage to residents and business in the Dixwell Avenue area and to the entire Town. The Department had a strong record for responding to any call, emergency and non-emergent, this sacrifices the work put behind the Fire Department and the teams in reaching a state-

recognized goal. Fire Chief will keep a new record, since the moves, in monitoring the response times of each station, especially the Ridge Road Station (2). Because of the current circumstances, H. Candido strongly believes eventually the response times will be an issue.

Although the Commissioners are disappointed with the current situation and the slow progress for the project, they are still determined to assist the Fire Chief in obtaining the right site and a workable agreement for the Town. The Commissioners are going to approach the mayoral candidates for their position about the situation prior to the election.

Station 2 will have a new roof installed. This was an overdue project that was needed to be addressed. It was noted the move of personnel was made to Mt. Carmel and Ridge Road Fire Stations. This means five people per shift were relocated.

The Fire Chief received an update on the recent grant application that was submitted from federal stimulus funds. So far a grant was awarded to East Hartford Fire Department and we hope to be included with the federal department announces a second round of awards, maybe in two weeks.

Personnel—Promotions for the Fire Department are still on hold.

**New Business:** Nothing to address.

**Discussion with Department Head:** Nothing further to discuss.

**Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, which is Veterans' Day holiday. The Commissioners agreed to reschedule the meeting to Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. P. LeMoine will confirm the availability of a conference room prior to the meeting and contact the Town Clerk's office about the new date.

**Adjournment:** D. Wetmore made the **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Recorded by,

**Patrice A. LeMoine**

Patrice A. LeMoine  
Clerk of the Fire Commission