

Hamden Fire Commissioners
Administration Building, in the Large Conference Room
Minutes of the Meeting of June 9, 2010

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

Call to Order: Vice-Chairman, M. D'Andrea called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. The agenda was reviewed.

Minutes: M. D'Andrea requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2010 meeting. R. LaToracca made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Correspondence: Fire Chief Berardesca noted there was correspondence received; a copy of a letter from Abner Oakes thanking the Department for their service.

Public/Media Comments on Agenda: Nothing to report.

Department Report: Fire Chief Berardesca presented the May report for the Commission's review. The activity reports were from the Training/EMS, and Repairs and Maintenance divisions for the month of May. Mr. LaToracca asked for the Fire Marshal's report to be included next month. Fire Chief Berardesca agreed to have the reports available to the Fire Commissioners.

Fire Chief mentioned the Town submitted two grants to FEMA for equipment. One grant application is for a pumper and for radio-banding equipment. The applications were coordinated by Deputy Fire Chief R. Surprise.

One grant for an EOC back-up generator for the Town Hall building, which is for adequate emergency power backup; the building would have a 25 kw generator on to support the power temporarily to the building.

D. LaBanca was honored at the Masonic Lodge awards event last month.

R. Reilly made the motion to approve the Fire Department's activity reports as presented. R. LaToracca seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Executive Session: Nothing to report.

Discussion with Department Head: Fire Chief Berardesca gave an update on personnel. Three Medics dropped their certifications this past year and won't practice as paramedics, just as EMTs. The Department requires 16 paramedics; currently we have 13.

Certified Firefighters list—Paramedics will be called to Human Resources. To meet the requirement, we will request a list of candidates who have attended and successfully passed their training at the fire academy. The Town has approved the hiring of 3 firefighters, and we look to hiring 3 more this fiscal year. There will also be the hiring of a Deputy Fire Marshal and Battalion Chief positions. A discussion was held regarding the union contract and attracting applicants who meet these requirements; and we have to build up our hiring for paramedics.

The Fire Commission will submit a letter of request to Civil Services asking to begin the testing process for certified firefighters/paramedics to fill three positions for hiring. M. D'Andrea requested a motion. R. LaToracca made the motion for the Fire Commission to submit a letter as previously stated. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The test for Battalion Fire Chief will be held June 17th and a list of eligible candidates will be available the week of Just 21st. The Commission would like to hold interviews by the last week of June or first week of July. There will be the retirement of a Battalion Chief this August and the Department hopes to hold a second set of interviews by September.

By July 7th, Fire Chief Berardesca would like to request the names of candidates for the Department Fire Marshal position. The person appointed will be enrolled to the fire academy for Fire Marshal Certification in September and completion of the program will end by January 2011.

New Business:

Memorandum from Mayor's office regarding outdoor wood burning. Fire Chief Berardesca discussed the Mayor's position about residents using outdoor wood fire pits. The Fire Chief is opposed to residents owning and using the outdoor fire burners for heating their homes. The container is installed through the outside of the home and the system is a slow-burning method, build-up a great deal of smoke and can be unsafe. A discussion regarding the issues of nuisance smoke, and the Department answers to calls when homes are burning over a long-period of time. The Fire Department's position is to ban the use of outdoor furnaces, not outdoor wood burning fire pits.

Curt Lang requested the Fire Chief's response to the RFP issued for the proposal of a new Fire Headquarters. The RFP is going out and the Fire Commission and the Fire Chief have a few concerns regarding the RFP; the future of the Fire Headquarters; and the support on the renovations for the fire stations. The Capital budget has \$150,000 for improvements for stations/buildings; and the 2011-2012 will have a budget of \$9 million for the development of the headquarters. The Commissioners will table this topic of this discussion at the next meeting.

Fire Station 2-Dixwell Avenue carries a high volume of calls and there is a need for an additional Rescue unit added; however, due to the present economy we will be unable to add another unit. The Town Council passed the expenditures for a new Tower (\$800,000), 2 Life packs (\$61,000) and new hoses at the cost of \$29,000. D. Rochelle and B. Deburra found the sites for the relocation for the tower for approval and the Department will trade-in an old tower for \$33,000 toward the purchase of the new Tower. A redesign of the truck will be ordered.

Suggestions for reducing expenses when ordering future supplies with other municipalities was discussed. The Department contacts other towns and a future opportunity may be possible. We are hiring a third-party company to conduct the testing of our hoses, which prevents many injuries and removes us from liability to our insurance.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

Regular Meeting: The next Regular Meeting is to be held Wednesday, September 8, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. A special meeting will be scheduled in June to accommodate the upcoming interviews.

Adjournment: Vice-Chairperson M. D'Andrea requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. R. LaToracca made the **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Recorded by,

Patrice A. LeMoine
Patrice A. LeMoine, Clerk of the Fire Commission