

Hamden Fire Commissioners
Administration Building, in the Large Conference Room
Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 4, 2009

In Attendance: Michael D'Andrea, Richard Reilly, and Duane Wetmore. **Absent:** Henry Candido and Robert LaToracca. **Also in Attendance:** Fire Chief David Berardesca and Clerk for the Commission Patrice LeMoine.

Call to Order: Vice-Chairman, M. D'Andrea called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Attendance was confirmed and then the agenda was reviewed.

Minutes: M. D'Andrea requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2009 meeting. D. Wetmore made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Executive Session: Nothing to report.

Correspondence: Fire Chief Berardesca shared a few letters to the Commissioners. He highlighted those letters of appreciation for the Department's emergency services from the Town residents.

Department Report: M. D'Andrea asked the members of the Commission to review the activity reports from the Fire Marshal, Training/EMS and Repairs and Maintenance for the month of October. The Fire Chief noted the response times in the report. Due to the temporary closing of Station 4 the response time has been affected by an additional two minutes to emergencies. More responsibilities have been added to the surrounding stations. We are experiencing longer response times due to the changes to Station 4. When Station 4 is renovated, only two bays will be available. The Commissioners thanked Fire Chief Berardesca for his report.

Public/Media Comments on Agenda: Nothing to report.

Old Business: The RFP (Request for Proposal) is being coordinated through the purchasing agent. The Department is waiting for the final information. No definite date of when the deadline is for submission.

The new roof to Station 2 is underway and almost completed. The Town received a very good price from a local contractor.

New Business: Fire Chief Berardesca would like to accomplish a few items by the end of November.

Fire Chief Berardesca would like to request the testing for Battalion Chief and Entry-Level Firefighters with Civil Services. A formal request is required. A discussion about those eligible and the ranking group who are eligible for interviews was discussed. Certified Firefighters is needed to complete the interviews for ranking.

The hiring of promotions for Fire Lieutenant was discussed. There is currently an opening for this role. Primarily the Fire Chief cannot appoint anyone unless the budget can hold the

salaried position. The Commission and the Fire Chief will need to approach our new Mayor to review the open positions.

There is a need to fill the open positions due to the Department having a staff ratio to meet and as well as a service to the residents and organizations. The present number on the Fire Department roster is currently stretching the Department quite thin. Because of this staffing and scheduling challenges, overtime pay is reflected in the Department's budget. We are also in need of equipment and the maintenance and service to the pumpers and engines are increasing. We keep the vehicles in good shape since they are inspected and we want to keep them on the road.

A discussion and review of the options for leasing versus purchasing emergency vehicles should be considered for the Town. Fire Chief Berardesca highlighted some of the equipment and vehicles needed (fire truck, two pumpers and vehicles).

The Fire Commission discussed and R. Reilly made the motion to address a letter to Kenneth Kelley in Personnel requesting a testing for one Fire Battalion Chief and Entry-Level Firefighters. D. Wetmore seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Discussion with Department Head: Nothing further to discuss.

Regular Meeting: The next Regular Meeting is to be held on Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment: D. Wetmore made the **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Recorded by,

Patrice A. LeMoine

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Clerk of the Fire Commission