

Hamden Fire Commissioners
Administration Building, in the Large Conference Room
Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 17, 2010

In Attendance: Henry Candido, Michael D'Andrea, Richard Reilly, and Duane Wetmore.

Absent/Excused: Robert LaToracca. **Also in Attendance:** Fire Chief David Berardesca.

Call to Order: Chairman, H. Candido called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The agenda was reviewed.

Election of Officers: H. Candido requested nominations for **Chairman**. R. Reilly nominated Robert LaToracca. M. D'Andrea nominated Henry Candido. With no further nominations, D. Wetmore proposed to close the nominations for Chairman. After the paper ballots were received (votes three / one), the majority was in favor of H. Candido to serve as Chairman from 2010 to 2012.

Nomination for Vice-Chairman and Secretary—The following nominations were made:

Michael D'Andrea as Vice-Chairman

Robert LaToracca as Secretary

Since there were no other nominations, D. Wetmore made the motion to cast one ballot for the voting. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor. H. Candido made the motion to approve the nominations, as presented, for M. D'Andrea - Vice-Chairman and R. LaToracca - Secretary to serve a term from 2010 to 2012. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor. Fire Chief Berardesca said he appreciates the support the Commission gives to the Fire Department and looks forward to working with everyone over the next two years.

Minutes: H. Candido requested a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2010 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 the recent letters received. The Department received a very nice letter from a patient thanking the Fire Department for tending to his/her medical emergencies.

Public/Media Comments on Agenda: Nothing to report.

Department Report: H. Candido 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 January. The call volume report (types of fires and services) was reviewed. The Town Council has received a copy of the reports before a recent meeting. They will receive the reports each month. The Town Council will be able to see the number of calls, response time, and other department responsibilities.

After further review of the information, Mr. Candido requested a motion to approve the information presented this evening. D. Wetmore made the **motion** to accept the reports as presented. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Old Business: The RFP was drafted and is currently with the Building Committee to review the detailed plans of the design and construction of the fire headquarters. The Fire Commission

reviewed the current status of the development of the headquarters. There has been no opposition from the Town Council, but the Whitneyville Civic Association may have some opposition about the location of the proposed site for the headquarters.

Fire Chief Berardesca noted the vehicle computers are not all installed due to cost for the wireless cards. There is no budget for the monthly charges of \$60 per card for each vehicle. However, the Fire Department has received a new EOC grant for equipment, which was a useful opportunity for us. The funding is obtained through the Emergency Management Services. We needed to apply for the large grant to accommodate the new expansion of the emergency radio systems. If we did not receive the grant, we would not have been able to work with the radio current system, which will eventually be obsolete.

The 2010-11 budget update—Fire Chief Berardesca reviewed the final details of the proposed financial budget with Mayor's Aid, C. Leng and Finance Director. He spoke of some of the revisions and where some line items will stay and some will have changes made. Fire Chief Berardesca discussed with the Commissioner the proposed budget, specifically the area of Department equipment. A discussion about the current vacancies and the injured staff was held. There will be one officer vacancy, which will be filled internally and a new position will become available. A discussion was held regarding the future budget on the officer roles. The active list for Fire Lieutenant is available; however, there is no active list available for Battalion Fire Chief or Fire Captain, as well as an active list for non-certified entry-level firefighters. There is a list available for certified firefighters. We will need to fill a paramedic position soon.

Executive Session: Nothing to report.

Discussion with Department Head: A reminder for the Fire Commissioners to reply to the upcoming Fire Department Union Retirement Celebration party at the Laurel View Country Club, which is Saturday, February 20th.

New Business: H. Candido asked to discuss the subject of organizing a second fundraising event for the Fire Department. No matter what the amount or goal that we raise, the Commission should consider supporting the Department. The subject will be held at a later time.

Fire Chief Berardesca added that the Department is setting up bundle billing for paramedic services. The Department is considering raising the inspection fees for Fire Marshal services. This is pending approval from the Town Council.

Regular Meeting: The next Regular Meeting is to be held on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Chairperson H. Candido requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. D. Wetmore made the **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. M. D'Andrea seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Recorded by,

Patrice A. LeMoine

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Clerk of the Fire Commission