

Hamden Fire Commissioners
Administration Building, in the Large Conference Room
Minutes of the Meeting of March 10, 2010

In Attendance: Henry Candido, Michael D'Andrea, Robert LaToracca, and Duane Wetmore.

Absent/Excused: Richard Reilly. **Also in Attendance:** Fire Chief David Berardesca.

Call to Order: Chairman, H. Candido called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The agenda was reviewed.

Minutes: H. Candido requested a motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2010 meeting. D. Wetmore made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. M. D'Andrea seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Correspondence: Fire Chief Berardesca noted there was no correspondence to present to the Commissioners.

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 February. A review of the call volume report (types of fires and services) was held. The Town Council has received a copy of the reports before their next meeting. The response times record is about the same time each month and is due to Station 4 being temporarily closed.

Discussion with Department Head: Appointment of the Deputy Fire Chief. Fire Chief Berardesca informed the Commission how the Department worked with Mayor Jackson in the selection of Robert Surprise for the position of Deputy Fire Chief. Three very strong candidates were interviewed and the Mayor made the final recommendation of Mr. Surprise for the position. R. Surprise was sworn in this morning with family and coworkers present.

Old Business: Fire Headquarters--The RFP was drafted and is still with the Building Committee for review. The Fire Department is still in favor of the location at Putnam Avenue for the headquarters. Discussion was held regarding the progress and delays might be due to the preparation of the Town budget.

Executive Session: Nothing to report.

New Business: H. Candido asked about the status of the 2010-11 Budget. Fire Berardesca said the proposed budget is in final stages in the Mayor's office. Mayor Jackson will present the final budget for the Town to the Council by the 16th of March. Some new concepts will be introduced for Department expenses (i.e., leasing of fire vehicles).

March 23rd at 6:00 p.m., the Fire Department will present their budget before the Town Council. The Sub-Straight account was reduced to \$1.2 million from \$1.5 million, which the Fire Chief will address. The maintenance expense for the fire vehicles will be an issue to address for the year.

With the new appointment of Robert Surprise, a promotion will be available in the Department. David Strawhence has submitted his leaving the Fire Department at the end of this fiscal year. This will provide two openings to fill from within the Department.

M. D'Andrea mentioned of an upcoming fundraising event to support the Mills Family. Lt. Hench is selling tickets for the April 10th hockey event. The game is New Haven and Hamden Police vs. Fire Departments, and will be held at Hamden Lou Asterino Skating Rink.

Regular Meeting: The next Regular Meeting is to be held on Wednesday, April 14, 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 6:20 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