

Hamden Fire Commissioners
Administration Building, in the Large Conference Room
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2011

In Attendance: Henry Candido, Michael D'Andrea, Robert LaToracca, and Richard Reilly.

Absent/Excused: Duane Wetmore. **Also in Attendance:** Fire Chief David Berardesca and Deputy Fire Chief Robert Surprise.

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

Minutes: H. Candido requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2010 meeting. R. Reilly made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. R. LaToracca seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Correspondence: Nothing to present.

Public/Media Comments on Agenda: Nothing to report.

Department Report: Budget proposal for 2011-12—Fire Chief submitted the proposal to Mayor Jackson and the Finance Director. The budget will be reviewed and then go forward to the Town Council. Fire Chief Berardesca noted some of the cuts the Town Council had made to the current budget (2010-11); and he would like to return those cuts to the 2011-12 budget. The proposed budget has been increased a nominal amount, which is to support salaries and the new positions when filled. Currently the Fire Department is short-staffed with Paramedic/Firefighters.

Fire Chief Berardesca discussed the vehicles that are in repair and when down, we don't have a spare vehicle, but then two stations share the emergency vehicles. This affects the response time to emergency calls. He also spoke about the pumper that needs to be replaced. The hydrant repairs/maintenance is required. Fire Chief spoke on a recent grant for FCC narrow-banding, which allow the current system to be upgraded. This upgrade is an FCC requirement. He emphasized the priority of new hires and the need to purchase a new pumper. Funding for all the positions requested may not be 100% approved, and 90% of the Fire Department's budget is contractually obligated to fill. Fire Chief Berardesca made a strong effort to keep the budget about the same as the current year's budget, with the exception of a 4% increase.

The Fire Commission would like the Town Council to support the Fire Department's proposal, which is for the public safety of the town residents and businesses.

Department Reports—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 December and January. It was noted, the procedure for the Fire Marshal's reporting system has changed and the activities are recorded on a daily basis, which gives a full, detailed log for the Department.

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

Old Business: There is a delay with the renovation project for the Town Hall Fire Station. This is due to more asbestos discovered during the renovation. There is an RFP for a state grant being to support the Circular Avenue Station's renovations. A copy of the RFP was given to the Fire Chief.

Executive Session: At 6:28 p.m. H. Candido requested a motion to go into Executive Session. M. D'Andrea made the motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose to discuss personnel issues with the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief. R. LaToracca seconded the motion. All were in favor. At this time, the Clerk for the Fire Commission left the room.

At 6:52 p.m. M. D'Andrea made the motion to end Executive Session. R. LaToracca seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Discussion with Department Head: Nothing to report.

New Business: Mr. Candido requested a letter to be addressed to the Staff at the Fire Stations regarding their work and efforts in retaining their work schedules over the snow storms and for their time in snow removal and maintaining the station house over each storm. P. LeMoine will work with Mr. D'Andrea and Candido in distributing the communication.

H. Candido noted the upcoming Fire Department Union's Retirement Celebration party at the Laurel View Country Club, which is Saturday, March 5th. Members of the Fire Commission are invited.

Next Meeting: The Commissioners discussed the scheduling of a special meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to hold interviews for three Certified, Entry-Level Fire Fighters positions.

Adjournment: Chairperson H. Candido requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. R. LaToracca made the **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 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