

Hamden Fire Commissioners
Administration Building, in the Large Conference Room
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 14, 2011

In Attendance: Henry Candido, Michael D'Andrea, and Richard Reilly. **Absent/Excused:** Robert LaToracca. **Also in Attendance:** Fire Chief David Berardesca and Deputy Fire Chief Robert Surprise. Also present: Mr. M. Iezzi, future member of the Fire Commission.

Call to Order: Chairman, H. Candido called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The agenda was reviewed.

Minutes: H. Candido requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2011 special meeting. R. Reilly made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. M. D'Andrea seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Correspondence: Nothing to present.

Public/Media Comments on Agenda: Nothing to report.

2012 Meeting Schedule: The letter is addressed to the Town Clerk's office regarding the meeting of the Fire Commission for 2012. The meetings will continue to be held the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. The third floor conference room will be reserved. Mr. Candido requested a motion to approve the schedule as presented. M. D'Andrea made the motion to approve the meeting schedule for 2012 year as presented, with the exception of June and July to be determined on the calendar. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Department Report: Department Reports—H. Candido asked the members of the Commission to review the activity reports from the Deputy Fire Marshal, Training/EMS and Repairs and Maintenance for the months of October and November. It was noted, the Deputy Fire Marshal has been providing very thorough reports and his time responsible to inspections has been very positive. Both department officials and the public have been very impressed with his professionalism and level of attention to detail. Also, as of yesterday, the department reached 10,000 calls for the year.

The Fire Chief said the contractor bids were received for the construction project of the new fire headquarters. Some great proposals were received, but they need to go before the Building Committee and Town Council. It maybe delayed until the completion of the renovation of the Old Town Hall/Police/Fire project located on Dixwell and Whitney Avenues. There are a number of issues that need to be addressed with the current construction company. Discussion was held about some of the delays and the channels that require to be followed are cumbersome and challenging.

The Town Hall Fire Station completion date is still pending. There may be a temporary issue with the staff parking. The doors are defective, but will be replaced by the manufacturer.

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

Discussion with Department Head:

Budget proposal for 2011-12—Fire Chief has a preliminary budget proposal to submit to the Mayor and Finance Director. The proposal is \$350,000 over the present budget plan. Reasons for the increase are due to the increase in hydrant water and salaries with 2012 raises. The proposed budget will be presented in January.

Other Updates – Interviews for the Fire Marshal position will be held January 11, 2012. The request to Civil Services was for three certified candidates, but we may have only two eligible candidates to interview. Unless the candidate is certified, but if not certified, that person will be enrolled at the academy for a six month course. When attending classes, which are three days per week and on duty the other two days each week.

H. Candido wanted to ask about the traffic light near Station 4. It is the State's responsibility and they won't agree to the light. This subject will also be a concern with the new fire headquarters needs emergency access to Putnam Avenue. This will be addressed before the completion of the new site.

Old Business: The Fire Commission discussed the response from the Mix Avenue Volunteer Fire Company regarding the dedication of the house in Duane Wetmore's memory. The decision was a very difficult one, and the Company had to decline the recommendation. M. D'Andrea gave his opinion and recommended a room or location at the new Fire Headquarters to be proposed in Duane's name.

Executive Session: Nothing to present.

New Business: Fire Chief Berardesca requested the Commissioners to address a letter to Civil Services asking for a promotional recruitment for Fire Lieutenant. The request to fill the Fire Marshal position will need to be submitted as well.

The Fire Department currently has four unfunded firefighter positions. There are no funds available in the budget to fill these positions.

Next Meeting: The Commissioners discussed the scheduling of a regular meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Chairperson H. Candido requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. R. Reilly made the **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 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