

***Town of Hamden Fire Commission
Minutes of the meeting
January 11, 2012***

ATTENDING—Henry Candido, Michael D’Andrea, Michael Iezzi, and Richard Reilly, and Donovan Shahid Abdul-Karim.

ALSO PRESENT—Fire Chief David Berardesca and Deputy Fire Chief Robert Surprise.

CALL TO ORDER –

Chairman H. Candido called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11, 2012. The agenda was then reviewed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS –

H. Candido requested recommendations for officers of the Fire Commission.

M. D’Andrea nominated Henry Candido for Chairperson. With no further nominations, R. Reilly seconded the motion to nominate Mr. Candido. All were in favor.

R. Reilly nominated Michael D’Andrea for Vice-Chairperson. There were no further nominations, and M. Iezzi seconded the motion to nominate Mr. D’Andrea. All were in favor.

H. Candido nominated R. Reilly for Secretary of the Fire Commission. With no further nominations, M. D’Andrea seconded the motion to nominate Mr. Reilly. All were in favor.

It was then confirmed the Officers of the Fire Commission for the 2012 to 2014 term are:

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| Chairperson | - | Henry Candido |
| Vice-Chairperson | - | Michael D’Andrea |
| Secretary | - | Richard Reilly |

Mr. Candido welcomed the new commissioners and gave a summary of the responsibilities of the Fire Commission. The request was made to schedule the commissioners to visit the fire stations and be introduced to some of the personnel on duty. The Fire Chief will schedule the tour for the end of January. M. D’Andrea requested a roster of the staff assigned to each station with the shift schedules to be available prior to the tour.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – H. Candido entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 14, 2011. M. D’Andrea motioned to accept the minutes of December 14, 2011 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by R. Reilly. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE - Nothing to present.

DEPARTMENT REPORT –Department reports for December were presented and reviewed. The reports include the Training, Maintenance, Fire Marshal, and the new

addition of policies and procedures. The information reflects a very busy month, an increase of calls in comparison to the previous month.

The 2012-13 department budget was presented. The final budget will be presented to the Finance Department January 12, 2012. The proposal reflects a 10% increase to last year's budget; this is due to contractual obligations. The capital budget for 2012-13 is less than last year's budget. The request covers purchases and repairs that are less in costs from last year's capital purchases.

The Fire Commission supports the budget proposal and will attend the budget hearings with the Town Council.

R. Reilly made the motion to approve the department reports and the budget proposals for the 2012-13 fiscal year as presented. D. Abdul-Karim seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS –

Fire Headquarters – The Town has interviewed three contractors who presented bids for the construction of the new headquarters. The Town Council will review the financing and will most likely wait until the present Town building project is completed. The Fire Commission discussed the pending project and has concerns regarding the timing of the Town Council going forward to committing to a \$14 million agreement within the year. A brief discussion was held regarding the youth center facility being incorporated in the building of the fire headquarters.

OPEN DISCUSSION – COMMISSIONERS/DEPARTMENT HEAD—

The revision to the Town Charter includes presenting of the policies and procedures to the Fire Commission. The department recently created a Seatbelt Use policy and requested all firefighters to pledge in honoring the policy. After review of the Seatbelt policy, dated January 13, 2012, M. Iezzi made the motion to approve the policy and procedure as presented. D. Abdul-Karim seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Fire Chief Berardesca noted Deputy Fire Marshal Brian Dolan is being honored at the Firefighter of the Year ceremony this year, which is January 28, 2012 at the Elks' Club in Hamden. Mr. Dolan brought back the trust and a favorable reputation to the Department in the role of Fire Marshal. We appreciate the work he has done, not only as the Deputy Fire Marshal, but covering the full responsibilities of the Fire Marshal in the interim.

Deputy Fire Chief Surprise recently submitted a grant application to FEMA, and we received confirmation that the Department will be awarded for 25 air packs, masks and air bottle compressors. The total cost for the supplies and products are \$271,000 and the Town is required to pay 20% of the costs with FEMA paying the balance. The commissioners extended a special thanks to Deputy Fire Chief for his extra work and in accomplishing the grant.

Mr. Candido recommended the Fire Commission consider holding a fundraiser for the Fire Department. The commission will plan to hold ideas and possibly plan an event for later

this year. The last event was held approximately four years ago, and we were able to raise enough money to purchase equipment for the department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION -

M. Iezzi made the motion to go into Executive session for the purpose to conduct interviews to hire one Fire Marshal position. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor. At 6:40 p.m. P. LeMoine left the room.

At 7:40 p.m. M. Iezzi made the motion to end Executive session. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor.

H. Candido requested a nomination for the position of Fire Marshal. M. Iezzi made the motion to appoint Dennis Harrison to the position of Fire Marshal. M. D'Andrea seconded the motion. All were in favor, no one opposed.

A letter of the appointment will be made to Mr. Kelley in Personnel and the scheduling of swearing-in ceremony will be coordinated through Town Clerk, V. Morrison. The ceremony will be scheduled January 31, 2012 in the morning, pending the Mayor's availability.

NEXT MEETING DATE – The next regular meeting will be **Wednesday, February 8, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at Hamden Government Center, Third Floor Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT –At 7:44 p.m. M. Iezzi motioned to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by R. Reilly. The motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by,

Patrice A. LeMoine

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Clerk for the Commission