

**Hamden Fire Commissioners**  
**Administration Building, in the Large Conference Room**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 14, 2012**

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**In Attendance:** Henry Candido, Michael D'Andrea, Michael Iezzi, Richard Reilly, and Donovan Shahid Abdul-Karim. **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 February 8, 2012 meeting. One correction under Old Business is Michael D'Andrea, not Michael Iezzi, was appointed to the RFP Committee.

R. Reilly made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. D. Abdul-Karim seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Correspondence:** Nothing to present.

**Public Media:** Nothing to present.

**Department Report:** The reports for February were provided, copied to the Town Council. The Fire Marshal report was an outstanding report, reflecting several inspections over the past month.

Fire Chief Berardesca noted the trailer, parked at the Miller Library parking lot, is for our firefighters to attend and participate in fire and rescue demonstrations. This is a requirement for all participants and is coordinated through the State fire academy.

With nothing further to discuss, M. D'Andrea made the motion to accept the reports as presented. M. Iezzi seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Executive Session:** Nothing to present.

**Discussion with Department Head:** Fire Chief Berardesca mentioned the lieutenants' exam was held earlier today. We hope to hold the interviews next month.

March 21<sup>st</sup> is the review of the Fire Department's budget that will go before the Town Council.

The recent article in the paper indicated \$140,000 was transferred from the Fire Department for the Public Works staff. Fire Chief Berardesca explained these funds were fire concessions due to holidays and was not in the Fire Department's budget. The confusion may partly be due to the article had not correctly reflected this issue as accurately as it should.

We will go back for sub-straight dollars for the Fire Department.

Beside the upcoming interviews for lieutenant position, we have a vacancy for one firefighter position, which is eligible to be filled. A new list is needed to be posted. We can only fill one position, and would like a paramedic candidate to apply, if possible. It is also required that the candidate be an EMT and certified firefighter.

**Old Business:**

Tour of the fire stations: The fire commissioners toured the fire stations February 24. The commissioners began the tours at 3:00 p.m. and completed about 7:00 p.m. Each commissioner gave his opinion of the station house and the furniture, which is very rundown. The furniture needs to be in a condition that can tolerate the wear and tear of the consistent use. The maintenance issues about the stations were addressed, but the overall proper maintenance of the building structures also needs to be addressed. M. D'Andrea recommends the Public Safety committee be invited to tour the stations, particularly station 2, maybe station 5. The staff at each station was appreciative of the commissioners coming to see each station house. The morale is very positive. This reflects the work and support of the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief. The commissioners agreed to schedule further visits over the year. H. Candido thanked everyone for their time in coming to the stations.

Fire Chief Berardesca noted many times the furniture is donated, used items. The staff keeps the station house clean, including the furniture.

A discussion was held regarding the volunteer fire houses.

Fundraising Events: H. Candido requested ideas and recommendations for an upcoming event. A recommendation is the Hamden Fire Commission to hold fundraising events under the Duane K. Wetmore Annual Firemen's Fund. The Fund would be designated to raise monies to benefit the Hamden Fire Department.

This will give the commissioners the opportunity to show remembrance to Duane for his dedicated years as a volunteer fireman, service to the State, and recognition for his many years as a volunteer to the Town. This Fund will also create a commitment for the Fire Commission to carry out the name and remembrance of Duane on an annual basis.

The Fire Commission could come together with the Wetmore family to hold a celebration of this new dedication, and this new endeavor.

Mr. Iezzi made suggestions for locations to hold a dinner. There are opportunities to advertise through flyers, radio, and more. The commissioners would like to consider holding an event this coming fall 2012. Determine when to work on the event could be the months of June through August for an event.

**New Business:** D. Shahid spoke of the recent fundraiser held for the Mobile Food Pantry. Mayor Jackson supported the event, which is for the Connecticut Food Bank, and a site was arranged by the Town. Last month Fire Chief Berardesca came to volunteer his time at the site, which was appreciated by all. The MFP sent a letter to the Town of their appreciation.

**Next Meeting:** The Commissioners discussed the scheduling of a regular meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Town Attorney's conference room.

**Adjournment:** Chairperson H. Candido requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. M. Iezzi made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Recorded by,

*Patrice A. LeMoine*

Patrice A. LeMoine  
Clerk of the Fire Commission