

**Hamden Fire Commissioners
Administration Building, in the Large Conference Room
Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 9, 2013**

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

Absent: Donovan Shahid Abdul-Karim. **Also in Attendance:** Fire Chief David Berardesca, Deputy Fire Chief Robert Surprise, and Town Attorney Sue Gruen.

Call to Order: Chairman, H. Candido called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. The agenda was reviewed.

Minutes: H. Candido requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2012 meeting. **M. Iezzi made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Mr. Candido asked for Attorney Gruen and Fire Chief Berardesca to present the matter regarding the recent employee matter. At this time, Fire Chief Berardesca noted for the record of the letter, dated December 14, 2012, addressed to the Fire Commission from Raymond Pouncey. Mr. Pouncey's letter requested an appeal to his suspension for (2) two full work tours, which was issued December 11, 2012. Fire Chief Berardesca gave a brief summary of the issue regarding the personnel matter with Firefighter R. Pouncey.

Attorney Sue Gruen apprised the Commissioners regarding the latest update. Mr. Pouncey has sought legal counsel and his counselor requested a continuance. We do not believe Firefighter Pouncey will not be in attendance at this evening's meeting, as scheduled.

Mr. Candido noted we scheduled the meeting in December and this evening to meet with Mr. Pouncey, and we hope this will not be a repeated pattern. Attorney Gruen added that at last month's meeting, Mr. Pouncey had not received proper notice and it was recommended that we reschedule the meeting. To help in coordinating the next meeting, we need to provide his attorney with two dates and times to work with. The Fire Commission and Attorney Gruen offered Tuesday, January 29 and Wednesday, January 30, at 6:00 p.m. Attorney Gruen will confirm which date will work with the attorney and the Fire Commission will contact Mr. Pouncey with the date and time of the meeting, which will be held in the Town Attorney's conference room. The Commissioners agreed to continue the appeal.

Public/Media Comments on Agenda: Nothing to report.

Old Business: Mr. Candido asked for any items to discuss.

Updates for upcoming Fundraiser—Mr. Iezzi gave a summary of the present plans for the March 2013 event, but he had questions and concerns about the project and if there is enough time to make this event a success in the next two months. The project and the details in coordinating the event are time consuming.

A commitment to provide an approximate number of guests is needed for the restaurant; the amount to charge the guests; the raffle prizes; printing costs, etc. The commissioners agreed

to reserve enough time at the February meeting to discuss the plans for the event. It is important to that we hold this gathering, to show our appreciation to the firefighters.

Discussion with Department Head: Fire Chief Berardesca noted the department is preparing the upcoming 2013-14 budget report. We are requesting four (4) positions to be filled in the budget and in the capital budget we will request to order three (3) new fire vehicles. We will also need to reach out to the community for a donation toward a purchase of a fire vehicle.

The Circular Avenue Fire Station Construction Project—The construction company will be scheduling the demolition and install a new kitchen and cabinets. Then after the painting, cleaning and some maintenance around the exterior will be completed. The personnel will be working in the building as the demolition and work is being done. The construction crew will take measures of precautions to keep the Town workers safe during the project.

Executive Session: At 6:20 p.m. **M. Iezzi made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose to discuss department matters and to conduct interviews to fill the one Fire Training Officer position. M. D'Andrea seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

At this time, Attorney S. Gruen and P. LeMoine, Clerk for the Commission, left the meeting.

H. Candido requested a motion to go out of executive session. **M. Iezzi made the motion to end executive session at 7:08 p.m. M. D'Andrea seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

M. D'Andrea made the motion to appoint John Grasso to the position of Training Officer for the Hamden Fire Department. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor. No one opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

At this time, Fire Chief Berardesca said Mr. Grasso will be sworn-in on either Friday, January 11th or Monday, January 14, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. Confirmation will be made to the commissioners by Thursday afternoon. P. LeMoine will submit the letter of the appointment to Personnel.

Fire Chief Berardesca mentioned the next interviews will be to fill one (1) Fire Lieutenant and one (1) entry-level Firefighter positions. A letter will be issues to Personnel.

Next Meeting: The Commissioners discussed the scheduling of a regular meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. The announcement of the special meeting will be made within the next week.

Adjournment: Chairperson H. Candido requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. **M. Iezzi made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 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