

**Hamden Fire Commissioners
Administration Building, Town Attorney's Conference Room
Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 20, 2013**

In Attendance were Fire Commissioners: Henry Candido, Michael D'Andrea, Michael Iezzi, Richard Reilly and Donovan Shahid Abdul-Karim. **Also in Attendance:** Fire Chief David Berardesca, Deputy Fire Chief Robert Surprise, Town Attorney Sue Gruen, Attorney Ikechukwu Umeugo, with Firefighter Raymond Pouncey.

Call to Order: Chairman, H. Candido called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Mr. Candido requested the Commissioners to continue the special meeting of January 30, 2013. For the record, the outcome of the two-to-two vote on the proposition to uphold Fire Chief Berardesca's decision of the two-tour suspension to Firefighter R. Pouncey in December 2012 is denied.

Closing of January 30, 2013 meeting. **M. D'Andrea made the motion to end the meeting at 6:08 p.m. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

At this time Firefighter R. Pouncey, with Attorneys S. Gruen and I. Umeugo, thanked Commissioners for their time and left the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Candido requested a motion to approve the minutes of the January meetings. **R. Reilly made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, and January 30, 2013 meetings as presented. M. D'Andrea seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Old Business:

2013-14 Department Budget: Fire Chief Berardesca noted the Department's proposed budget was prepared and will be submitted to the Mayor's office within the next week. A timeline is tentative for March 2013 and then eventually going to the Town Council for final approval. The budget does not cover salaries, since the Town will follow the union agreement. The only salaries that do not change in the budget are the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief's positions.

Fire Chief noted budget items are based on contractual agreements and the major increase is the Regional Water Authority's bill, which went up to \$790,000 for the next fiscal year. Some are projection increases, and the Department's equipment forecasts falls under capital budget. We are submitting a request for three new rescue trucks, defibrillators for EMS, replacement hoses, and hydrant repair money. The former cost for rescue trucks were \$75,000 per vehicle and the current request are for a similar vehicle, but they are 4-wheel drive, lighter, and about \$45,000 per vehicle. We will convert the present vehicles into a shop truck, a tow vehicle and the other will be turned over to the Town as a service vehicle.

With no other business to present, Mr. Candido requested the Commissions go into Executive Session.

Executive Session:

At 6:15 p.m., M. Iezzi made the motion to go into executive session for the purpose to conduct interviews. D. Shahid Abdul-Karim seconded the motion. All were in favor. At this time, P. LeMoine left the meeting so that the Fire Commissioners could begin the interviews for the Fire Lieutenant position and Certified Firefighter position.

At 8:38 p.m. H. Candido requested a motion to end execution session. **M. Iezzi made the motion to end executive session. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Appointments:

M. Iezzi made the motion to appoint Jeffrey Naples to the position of Fire Lieutenant position. D. Shahid Abdul-Karim seconded the motion. All were in favor. This appointment will be effective immediately and the swearing-in ceremony will be held Friday, February 22nd at 11:00 a.m.

M. D'Andrea made the motion to appoint Lawrence Bowden to the position of Certified Firefighter. M. Iezzi seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mr. Bowden's swearing-in ceremony will be scheduled once we learn of his start date with the Department.

New Business: Nothing to present.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting is Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Chairperson H. Candido asked to adjourn the meeting. At 8:50 p.m. M. Iezzi made the motion to adjourn the meeting. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Recorded by,

Patrice A. LeMoine

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Clerk of the Fire Commission