

Hamden Fire Commissioners
Administration Building, in the Large Conference Room
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 8, 2013

In Attendance: Donovan Shahid Abdul-Karim, Henry Candido, Michael D'Andrea, Michael Iezzi and Richard Reilly. **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 6:02 p.m. The agenda was reviewed.

Minutes: H. Candido requested a motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2013 meeting. M. Iezzi made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. M. D'Andrea seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Public/Media Comments on Agenda: Nothing to report.

Executive Session: Nothing to present, nor discuss.

Old Business: Fire Chief Berardesca gave an update on the Fire Department's budget presentation to the Town Council for the fiscal year 2013-14. The Council went into deliberations this week and they will review and approve the Department's capital budget separately in the next week. The Mayor agreed not to give management personnel raises for the second consecutive year. The capital requests are for rescue vehicles, hoses, meters, to name a few.

Updates on Fire Stations 2 and 9. OSHA came to stations 2 and 9 and sited station house 2 for an open pit, located in the back of the building parking lot, that needs to be addressed and a corrective action plan is required. A cleaning and review was presented for the personnel to maintain at the station's kitchen. This was presented after the kitchen was given a thorough cleaning by a professional service.

Circular Avenue Firehouse. Fire Chief noted the work done to the firehouse came out very nice. The staff is very pleased and said the only outstanding item of the project is the flooring. H. Candido suggested a letter of thank you and appreciation should be sent to the company who donated their time to this project. The Fire Chief and Commissioners will present a letter together. Mr. Candido asked the Commissioners to go and tour the site(s) to show their support to the station houses.

Hiring and Personnel Updates. Fire Chief Berardesca noted J. Grasso has been very proactive and is getting acclimated since taking the role of Training Officer. He has been putting together a number of programs for the Training Department to provide the staff.

Since one firefighter has retired, the Department is waiting for approval from the Mayor to begin the hiring of this position. We hope to hold the interviews at the June meeting.

Department Reports. The department reports were presented to the Commissioners and they reflect a great deal of activity; everyone is working very hard.

H. Candido made the request to approve the reports. M. D'Andrea made the motion to approve the Fire Department reports for April, as presented. D. Shahid Abdul-Karim seconded the motion. All were in favor.

New Business:

Mr. Shahid Abdul-Karim inquired about the new hires of certified firefighters and getting acclimated to the Department. The Fire Chief gave an update and basically everyone is assigned to their teams and is doing fine.

Other Department Updates: Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief gave an update on engine 8, which has been out of service due to major repairs. The vehicle is in need of approximately \$5,000 in repairs and until the funds become available, we will continue to leave the vehicle at the repair shop. This is a volunteer engine and the Town addresses the mechanical repairs. We need to look at the value of the vehicle and determine if it is worth the repairs.

Capital Budget for FY 2013-14. The Fire Department has a proposed capital budget of \$480,000 and hopes the Town Council will approve the budget as presented by the Mayor. The education programs are very important to the entire Department. The continuation of education and in-services are very valuable to the public's safety, which includes the children, families, individuals as well as residential, commercial and schools in Hamden.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. As previously mentioned, we will look to hold the interviews at this meeting.

Adjournment: Chairperson H. Candido requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. M. Iezzi made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 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