

**Hamden Fire Commissioners
Administration Building, Town Attorney's Conference Room
Minutes of the April 9, 2014**

In Attendance were Henry Candido, Michael Iezzi, Andrea Lobo, James O'Brien, and Richard Reilly. **Also in Attendance:** Fire Chief David Berardesca, Deputy Fire Chief Gary Merwede.

Call to Order: Chairman, H. Candido called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Slate of Officers: In review of the recent resignation by Mr. D'Andrea, the Vice-Chair position is open. Mr. Candido request nominations to fill the position of Vice-Chair. H. Candido nominated R. Reilly to be Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. M. Iezzi made the motion to vote Mr. Reilly to be Vice-Chair. H. Candido seconded the motion. All were in favor, no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

At this time, H. Candido requested nominations for the position of Secretary. M. Iezzi nominated A. Lobo. No further recommendations were presented. M. Iezzi made the motion to approve the nomination of A. Lobo to Secretary. R. Reilly seconded the nomination. At this time, all were in favor, no one opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson:	Henry Candido
Vice-Chairperson:	Richard Reilly
Secretary:	Andrea Lobo

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Candido asked the Commissioners if they reviewed the minutes of the March meeting. At this time, M. Iezzi made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2014 meeting as presented. J. O'Brien seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Department Updates and Reports:

Fire Chief Berardesca introduced two policies and procedures that were drafted for the Commission's review and approval.

Deputy Fire Chief Merwede presented the **Diversity policy**. As Deputy Chief Merwede described, this draft is unique and is stronger than the Town's policy but is close to the FEMA policy. After a review of the draft, the Commissioners questioned how the department will enforce this policy. A discussion, as well as how the Department will roll-out and carry out the policy. At this time, H. Candido requested a motion to approve the Fire Department's Diversity policy. J. O'Brien made the motion to approve the department's Diversity policy as presented. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Deputy Fire Chief presented the proposed Social Media policy, which Deputy Fire Chief reviewed the content of the policy and those areas of potential violations such as HIPAA or liability of sending information or photographs while on duty to the public or social media. The commissioners asked to review and speak of the matter regarding being on duty and avoid any liability of any area. Examples were given and this proposed policy prevents any possibility of breach or violation of confidentiality being made.

At this time, M. Iezzi made the motion to approve the department's Social Media policy as presented. J. O'Brien seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

March Reports—The reports for February and March were distributed. The reports reflect a very busy month of activity. The fire marshal's office has been working hard with inspections, meetings and complaints. We hope in the future to bring in part-time inspections. There were 283 training classes held. This is a very good reflection of the work done by all.

The Fire Chief mentioned the budget deliberations were held. We had a good meeting with the Town Council. The new heating systems were ordered and installed for station houses 2 and 3.

Firefighter Nicholas Borelli was sworn-in April 7th. Mr. Borelli will be a great addition. The CERT team has been doing a great job.

Fire Chief Berardesca noted the department acquired some medical supplies, which is most needed. Through our budget, new vehicles were acquired and the department was able to receive furniture and mattresses for the various fire stations.

Old Business:

Proposed Budget 2014-15 Fiscal Year. The Fire Chief said Mayor Jackson returned some dollars back to a number of accounts for the department. The Substraights were retained at the Mayor's recommendation.

Fire Chief Berardesca has been the director of emergency management and this will be the first year, he will receive a stipend for this role.

The Town Council approved the proposed budget, and it was noted that the Fire Department's budget is 10 percent of the Town's budget. Majority of the department's budget is salaries and the invoice from the Water Authority. Our mission and goal is for the public's safety, prevention and saving lives.

New Business: Nothing to present.

Executive Session:

At 6:40 p.m., M. lezzi made the motion to go into executive session for the purpose to discuss personnel issues. J. O'Brien seconded the motion. All were in favor. At this time the P. LeMoine left the room.

At 6:52 p.m. H. Candido requested a motion to end execution session. M. lezzi made the motion to end executive session. A. Lobo seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting is Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Chairperson H. Candido asked to adjourn the meeting. At 6:55 p.m. R. Reilly made the motion to adjourn the meeting. M. lezzi seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Reported by,

Patrice A LeMoine

Patrice A. LeMoine
Clerk for the Fire Commission