

**Hamden Fire Commissioners**  
**Administration Building, Town Attorney's Conference Room**  
**Minutes of the September 10, 2014**

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

**Call to Order:** Chairman, H. Candido called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Candido requested a motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting. At this time, J. O'Brien made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2014 meeting as presented. R. Reilly seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Public Media:** Mr. Candido recognized that there was public from the Town present. Correspondence—A letter from newly hired firefighter B. Gagnon was read to the Commission. Mr. Gagnon thanked the Commissioners for the decision to hire him last July. Both the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief also received a letter from Mr. Gagnon. Mr. O'Brien noted this is the type of example that demonstrates the positive leadership and community spirit in Hamden.

Two letters of appreciation were addressed to the Fire Department expressing their appreciation for the services provided to them.

**Department Updates and Reports:**

Fire Chief reviewed the activity reports for the months of June, July and August and highlighted a few areas. Fire Chief Berardesca noted it has been a busy summer; the reports reflect a good response time to emergencies and to-date Station 2 keeps the best time record. The Fire Marshals conducted 151 inspections over the summer; this is remarkable since there are only two on staff. Deputy Chief Merwede is enrolled in the Fire Marshal program at the Connecticut Fire Academy. He will become certified as a Fire Marshal. Having the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief carry the certification provides stronger, knowledgeable support for the Department and the Fire Marshals.

Training programs and workshops were scheduled and held over the last few months. A proactive attendance was maintained.

A new ATV will be purchased to replace the existing one, which is outdated. New bids will be issued to replace an emergency vehicle.

The new firefighters were sworn-in earlier this past July. They are two great additions to the Department.

The Fire Academy is providing an internal testing program to the Fire Department. This will be given to candidates for when exams are required. The timing is perfect since a new list is due and soon promotions will be held this fiscal year.

Two fire lieutenants submitted their request for retirement. We will approach Personnel and the Town Council to approve the hiring of those two positions, and we have approval to hire two entry-level firefighter positions during this fiscal year. The Fire Commission noted the first round of interviews will be scheduled early fall.

Rescues—A new program is being introduced to the Department. The Department's paramedics are teaching new pre-medics on emergencies and rounds. This is a great opportunity for the Department and this provides an opportunity to enhance our efficiencies in training.

**Old Business:** Hamden Fire Commissioners extended their sympathies to the Fire Chief for the loss of his mother last month.

The Town is currently in mediation with the Union regarding the contract.

**New Business:** The Fire Commissioners will receive identification next month.

**Executive Session:** Nothing to present.

**Next Meeting:** The next regular meeting is Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. The meetings will be held at the Hamden Memorial Town Hall, first floor conference room.

**Adjournment:** Chairperson H. Candido asked to adjourn the meeting. At 6:30 p.m. J. O'Brien made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A. Lobo seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Reported by,

*Patrice A. LeMoine*

Patrice A. LeMoine  
Clerk for the Fire Commission