

Town of Hamden Fire Commission

Wednesday, February 11, 2015
at 6:00 p.m.

Memorial Town Hall Building
Location: 2372 Whitney Avenue, Hamden
Meeting Room on First Floor

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. Candido, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Reilly
Staff in Attendance: Fire Chief Berardesca, Deputy Fire Chief Merwede, Acting Clerk Tobin

1. Call to Order

Mr. Candido called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes (November and December 2014)

Mr. O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes of the November and December 2014 minutes. Mr. Curtis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Updates regarding Department Budget for FY 2015-16

Chief Berardesca said he has not had his budget review with the Mayor to date. Currently the Department is in the process of replacing Engine 3. In the Capital Budget, the Department is now requesting replacement of Engine 5 with a combination ladder truck and pumper. Chief Berardesca said he is looking for support from the Commission. Chief Berardesca is also looking to replace a staff car with over 100,000 miles on it.

Mr. Candido said perhaps the clerk can send a letter to the Mayor and the Legislative Council in support of these two items.

Mr. O'Brien asked what company does the Department plan to use. Chief Berardesca responded New England Fire Apparatus (NEFA). He said these vehicles are custom and cost \$750,000. They are made in Nebraska. Mr. Merwede said the diesel truck would come with all the warranties. The Department has a fleet of Fords and would purchase the staff car from Bob Thomas Ford. They use Bob Thomas Ford for maintenance and repairs including recalls. Mr. Candido said he feels it is good for the Town to use a local vendor. Chief Berardesca said NEFA is also a local company right next door in North Haven.

When asked what the Chief hopes to do with the old vehicles, he said they will probably sell one, but he would like to have two spare pumpers. However, he is not sure because they do have a space crunch.

Mr. Candido said with tonight's promotion there will be another opening for a firefighter, and he is hoping to get a Special Meeting on February 18th, next Wednesday. There will be three candidates. Mr. Candido hopes everyone will be able to attend in case a tie breaker is needed.

Mr. O'Brien mentioned that the Volunteer Fire Department is planning their annual fireworks display. As a fund raiser, they are doing an 18 month calendar and are selling ads to help raise funds. He felt it would be a good idea for commissioners to support them with a business card sized ad at a cost of \$100, \$20 per commissioner. Mr. O'Brien showed an example of the proposed ad.

Mr. Candido made a motion that the Commission purchase an ad for the Volunteer Fire Department's calendar at a cost of \$100, or \$20 per commissioner. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Mr. Candido said perhaps commissioners could help sell the ads, and asked if the Chief could help them out with contact information. Chief Berardesca will have Dave Johnson call Mr. Candido .

4. Executive Session

Mr. O'Brien made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the Assistant Superintendent of Apparatus position. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The executive session ensued at 6:15 p.m.

Mr. O'Brien made a motion to go out of executive session at 6:50 p.m Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The Regular Meeting resumed.

Mr. Candido announced the Glen Tricarico was unanimously selected to fill the position of Assistant Superintendent of Apparatus. He will be sworn in on Friday, February 13th at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Candido said the Commission will have a Special Meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. O'Brien asked if ID cards would be issued for Commissioners. Chief Berardesca said he checked with Phil Goodwin, who said they have issued ID cards for all Town employees, but not for commissioners. Chief Berardesca said the Department has the capability to make its own cards. Mr. O'Brien finds it strange because although they are not employees of the Town, they are making a lot of decisions. Mr. Candido said they used to have the magnets that went on the back of the car. Chief Berardesca said he will set up appointments and the training officer can make the ID cards. Mr. Merwede said he feels that they now have the capability to make departmental IDs for the Commissioners, the CERT Team and the Volunteer Firefighters. Mr. Candido said if they are questioned at a fire scene, the identification cards would be sufficient.

Mr. Merwede said they had two good "stops" (nomenclature that the Fire Department uses when a fire is put out before it ends up on the news). One fire was on Alenier Street in an older house where the outside walls go from foundation to attic without interruption. He said it was a great stop on a very cold night, and the people are back in their home.

The second was an attic fire on Third Street at 2:15 a.m. They were able to get it out quickly. That was an electrical fire that started in a light fixture. The Alenier Street fire started in a bathroom fan. They called CERT right away and got everyone into the bus to keep warm.

Mr. Candido reminded Commissioners about the upcoming retirement dinner.

Adjournment

Mr. O'Brien made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Acting Clerk