

# ***Town of Hamden Fire Commission***

## Minutes of the Special Meeting

January 6, 2016

*Unapproved/Draft*

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**Attending: Commissioners:** Henry Candido, Eric Curtis, James O'Brien, and Richard Reilly. **Staff:** Fire Chief Berardesca and Deputy Fire Chief Merwede and **Clerk:** Patrice LeMoine.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Candido called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Hamden Memorial Town Hall.

**Election of Officers:** The Commission discussed the potential appointment of a new member to the commission. With that said, Mr. O'Brien motioned to table the election until the next meeting. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Correspondence:**

Town Clerk information: Standing Rules and Regulations—the Commissioners discussed the information that was distributed and due to the importance of holding in-person meetings, the recommendation would not suffice. There are reports presented and a number of interviews held throughout the year, which require the commissioners to attend the meetings in person. Mr. O'Brien made the motion to decline the use of the proposed, and was seconded by Mr. Reilly. The motion passed unanimously.

**Distribution of Proposed 2016-17 FY Department Budget:** The 2016-17 budget was presented for the Commissioners to review. Fire Chief Berardesca gave a summary of a number of the budget items. The proposed operating budget for the Department is approximately \$13 million. He noted that 2% of the budget items are non-contractual; the remaining increased to the proposed budget are contractual. The proposed budget will be submitted to the Mayor and Finance Department this Friday, January 8.

The Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief prepared a capital budget for the Mayor. The request includes replacement of engine #9, and a vehicle for the Battalion Chief. The current vehicle will be given to a fire inspector and the current used vehicle will be given to the new inspector for the Fire Department. Fire Chief Berardesca noted the repairs and replacements of hydrants are required by the Town. The request also includes new exercise equipment, which is very much needed for the fire houses. The MedCom account reflects a savings from the prior year. This is due to a change in contract services. The purchase of uniforms has been split between the operating budget and the capital budget; however, Fire Chief Berardesca will request this procedure be contained solely in the operating budget.

Further review and discussion was held regarding the requests and the overall budget. Mr. Candido requested a motion to approve the Fire Department's proposed operating budget and capital requests for 2016-17 fiscal year as presented. Mr. O'Brien made the motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Candido wanted to commend the work of the fire team who were at the emergency call on December 25 into the morning of December 26. They did a remarkable job containing the fire, avoiding the fire from spreading to the neighboring houses.

**Executive Session:** Mr. Candido requested a motion to go into Executive Session. At 6:24 p.m. Mr. O'Brien made the motion to go into executive session for the purpose to conduct interviews as noted on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Curtis. All were in favor. At this time, Ms. LeMoine withdrew from the meeting.

At 7:38 p.m. Ms. LeMoine entered the meeting. Mr. O'Brien made the motion to end executive session and was seconded by Mr. Reilly. All were in favor.

*New Hires:* Mr. Candido announced the Commissioners unanimously approved Messrs. Steven Sorrentino and Cal Brennan to fill the two entry-level, certified firefighter positions.

**Next Meeting:** The next regular meeting is Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Memorial Town Hall first floor conference room.

**Adjournment:** At 7:41 p.m. Mr. Curtis motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. O'Brien. The motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by,

*Patrice A. LeMoine*

Clerk for the Commission