

Town of Hamden
Fire Commission Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
Legislative Council Auditorium
Memorial Town Hall at 2372 Whitney Avenue, Hamden

A regular meeting of the Hamden Fire Commission opened on May 17, 2023 at the Hamden Memorial Town Hall, located at 2372 Whitney Avenue.

Commissioners in Attendance: Nancy Hill, Victor Mitchell, Cherlyn Poindexter, Samod Rankins, and Gary Tinney, Chair. Also in Attendance: Fire Chief Jeffrey Naples; Clerk for the Commission, Patrice LeMoine.

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Tinney called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. A roll call was taken, confirming a quorum was present.
2. **Public and Media Comments regarding the Agenda:** Ms. Kim Talmadge, 315 Gaylord Mountain Road, and retired firefighter, spoke about her career at the Hamden Fire Department. Her primary purpose was to recommend not changing the CPAT requirements. She stressed not to change or reduce the capabilities of the firefighters. Ms. Talmadge explained when she was employed, she was capable of meeting the protocols as an emergency responder. She then encourages the volunteer program to include the CPAT program but introduce the education on emergency services and to introduce young women through the volunteer fire stations.
3. **Correspondence:** Fire Chief Naples presented letters to the Commissioners. He read a letter of resignation from Kyle Rothchild who was from Stationhouse 3. A letter of appreciation was sent from Erin Conroy who thanked the department regarding the CPAT training. A letter from Scott Ramos who expressed his appreciation and praise for the services rendered by the Fire Department, noting Firefighter Paramedic Conor Healy. The emergency services were for his 85-year-old mother who resides on Mix Avenue.

Fire Chief Naples read two letters of commendation for the recent structure fires that occurred in the town. The fire department also supported the City of Meriden while their fire department was controlling a six-alarm fire. The fire chief was very appreciative of the teamwork.

Fire Chief Naples noted Pete Lynch gave a “trained paramedics – boots on the ground” program and it had a great turnout. He added that there were five women of diversity who participated in the program and plan to take the test on Saturday. He appreciated that the training was held at Bridgeport Fire Academy facility.

Also, noted that congratulations are in order to Captain Lennon for him graduating from the Executive Fire Executive program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsbury, Maryland.

4. Message from the Chair:

Amendment to the agenda – Mr. Tinney requested a motion for the following amendment to the executive session. Ms. Hill motioned and was seconded by Mr. Rankins. All were in favor.

Mr. Tinney proposed a motion to add to the Executive Session the vote to appoint one Firefighter Paramedic position. The Chair called for a vote:

Nancy Hill	Yea	S. Rankins	Yea
Victor Mitchell	Nay	Gary Tinney	Yea
Cherlyn Poindexter	Nay		

The vote required a two-thirds in favor; therefore, the vote did not pass.

- 5. Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Tinney requested a motion to approve the past minutes. Mr. Mitchell motioned to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2023 meeting, as presented; and was seconded by Mr. Rankins. A vote was taken – four in favor and Ms. Poindexter abstained. The motion passed.

6. Old Business:

a. Volunteer Firefighter update – Mr. Mitchell gave an update on the training held these past two months. They volunteers were trained on brush truck and ladder training. There will be a classified driving a fire apparatus. Each volunteer is paying for the training themselves.

b. Update regarding entry-level EMT/FF list. Fire Chief Naples said we anticipate five vacancies this summer. He noted one firefighter paramedic is on leave due to an injury, one is not renewing his certification. We will address when to hold the interviews later this evening.

c. Update regarding Diversity Initiatives for Recruitment – Fire Chief Naples spoke of the upcoming programs and our involvement and meetings with various community organizations. Our department is working with the students and the public is inquiring about learning the role of the EMT and paramedics during the recruitment drives.

d. Chief Shelly Carter/Girls Future Firefighter Camp – Fire Chief Naples said he has reached out to Chief Carter; however, he has not received a response. Knowing that she has a full schedule this season, he may not hear from her until September.

7. New Business:

a. Departmental Reports – Fire Chief Naples reviewed the Fire Departments Call Report and noted the increase volume in emergency calls. Fire Chief Naples said the support services have been continually active. At the recent fire at Town Walk, we had the support from the Red Cross and Keefe Community Center who came to the scene of

the fire to assist those families that were affected. The Fire Marshal and Fire Inspection reports were presented. A request was presented to the mayor’s office to add an administrative support person to the department, and it was approved for the next fiscal year. This will be a great asset to this department.

b. Update regarding the status of previous Paramedic list. As said previously, Fire Chief Naples said the recruitment efforts are showing positive signs of interest.

c. CPAT Facilities and Accessibility – The prep course was held in various towns, and we received a great turnout of applicants. Next Wednesday, May 24 is the CPAT prep test. The department looks forward to those applicants submitting their applications to Hamden personnel. Pending the filling of the one vacancy, the Commission should be holding interviews to hire four candidates for firefighter paramedics very soon. The anticipated date to conduct interviews is July 19, 2023.

8. Other items for discussion: There was nothing to present.

9. Executive Session: Due to the vote previously held, the Commissioners met with candidate Taurean Tindal regarding the hiring of one Firefighter Paramedic position, however, a vote to fill the position will be held at a later date.

a. At 7:35 p.m. Mr. Rankins motioned to go into executive session for the purpose of interviewing Mr. Tindal for the vacancy of one Firefighter Paramedic position. Ms. Hill seconded the motion. The chair called for a vote:

Nancy Hill	Yea	S. Rankins	Yea
Victor Mitchell	Yea	Gary Tinney	Yea
Cherlyn Poindexter	Yea		

The vote received five in favor, which passed unanimously.

Fire Chief Naples mentioned that he was opposed to the interview taking place at this time, due to the fact that the new list of candidates will be available this coming July and Mr. Tindal will be eligible to interview then. Therefore, Fire Chief Naples withdrew from the meeting, as well as Ms. LeMoine.

At 8:25 p.m. Ms. LeMoine returned to the meeting. At this time, Mr. Tinney requested a motion to come out of executive session. Mr. Rankins motioned to end executive session and was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. All were in favor.

Nancy Hill	Yea	S. Rankins	Yea
Victor Mitchell	Yea	Gary Tinney	Yea
Cherlyn Poindexter	Yea		

The vote passed with all in favor (5-0; no abstentions).

b. Reconvene in public session and vote to appoint a candidate to the one (1) Firefighter Paramedic position.

A motion was made to appoint Mr. Taurean Tindal to the position of Firefighter Paramedic, effective August 21, 2023. Mr. Rankins motioned and was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. All were in favor.

Mr. Tinney requested a vote.

Nancy Hill	Yea	S. Rankins	Yea
Victor Mitchell	Abstained	Gary Tinney	Yea
Cherlyn Poindexter	Abstained		

Due to the lack of a two-thirds vote to amend this evening's agenda, the vote cannot move forward and will be tabled until the commission holds a special meeting.

10. Adjournment: Mr. Tinney requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rankins motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Mr. Mitchell seconded, and all were in favor.

Submitted by:

s/Patrice A. LeMoine
Clerk for the Commission