

Hamden Fire Retirees' Association, Inc.
Minutes – January 10, 2017

Following a complimentary 9 o'clock continental breakfast in the lounge area, President Bob Mordecai called the 33rd regular meeting of the Hamden Fire Retirees' Association, Inc. to order at 9:40 a.m. at the Hamden Elks Hall on Tuesday, January 10, 2017.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the members present observed a moment of silence followed by an opening prayer by Rev. Owen Sanderson, in which he remembered former Hamden firefighter Walter Vining, who passed away December 24th, honorary member Rita Harrington, widow of Kenneth Harrington, who passed away on December 7th, and all others of the department family who passed in 2016.

MINUTES – The secretary read the October minutes. A motion was made by Harold Mangler and seconded by Ray Dobbs to accept the minutes as read. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS – The secretary received “thank you” replies from Jackie Kelo and Ken Jones for the memorial plaque presentations, as well as a card from Joe and Helen McDermott.

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

Checking balance as of October 1, 2016	\$ 8.79
Shares balance as of October 1, 2016	<u>934.19</u>
Total balance as of October 1, 2016	\$ 942.98
Income:	
Quarterly dividend	\$ 0.06
Donation	43.00
Dues – 2016	30.00
Dues – 2017	<u>315.00</u>
TOTAL income this quarter	\$ 388.06
Expenses:	
Plaques (Jones and Kelo)	\$ 74.45
Postage	96.33
Reimbursement (Sec'y of the State Reports)	100.00
Business Entity Tax	<u>293.00</u>
TOTAL expenses this quarter	\$ (-563.78)
Transfers from Savings to Checking	\$ 793.00
Checking balance as of December 31, 2016	\$ 626.01
Shares balance as of December 31, 2016	<u>141.25</u>
Total balance as of December 31, 2016	\$ 767.26

A report on financial activity since January 1st was also presented and will be part of the 2017 first quarter report at the April meeting.

A motion was made by Brian Forsyth, seconded by Bill Fitzmaurice, to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEES – Benefits Committee

The Secretary reported on the pension plan since the October meeting. The market has done better than expected. The plan stands at about \$155M.

Sunshine Committee – No activity.

History Committee – The Secretary reported on a Co. 8 badge that was donated to the archives by Jorie Hemphill of Melbourne, Florida. The donation was acknowledged. Mark Pratt donated his U.S.A.F. fire badge, a firefighting commemorative coin and several photos to the archives. Bob Kelo was honored on November 4th at Hamden Town House. His widow, Jackie, and two of his children were present to accept Bob's memorial plaque from the Association. Nine retirees also attended.

A local citizen, Nancy Torello, organized a Hamden Police and Fire Appreciation Day on November 30th, which several retirees attended along with a large contingent of active HFD members.

Chief Berardesca resurrected the custom of issuing Badge No. 1 to the most senior firefighter. Jay Connolly received the badge in a surprise town hall ceremony on October 18th.

Radio transmissions of the 32 Dix Street fire, recorded July 11-12, 1981 by Ed Doiron, were posted on the website.

A year-end newsletter, reviewing highlights of the weekly website updates, was published and mailed to all non-online members.

The secretary introduced guest Vic Mitchell, who reported that the members of Co. 7 are interested in assisting the retirees with the schoolhouse project once it gets approval from the town. The members would be able to aid with needed renovations of the building and would be interested in returning the old annex of the building back into a truck bay to house the 1918 Brockway as a museum attraction. The Mayor, the Historical Society and Hamden Historic Properties Commission are already on record as supporting the idea of using the old schoolhouse for a fire museum. The secretary, who was recently appointed Town Historian and an alternate on the Historic Properties Commission, will continue to investigate how this plan may be accomplished.

Hamden Firefighting, a 128-page pictorial history of the Hamden Fire Department, has been accepted for publication by Arcadia Publishing in their Images of America series. The secretary requests old photos from members of firehouse activities for possible inclusion in the book.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – None

OLD BUSINESS – The secretary reported that upon investigation, he found that the Association would not qualify for either a 504(c)(3) or (4) status by the IRS, but would qualify for 501(c)(7) status because it is a social organization which limits membership to certain individuals. He will report on the fee at the April meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – The Chair noted that the secretary has placed password protection on archived pages of the Association's website, restricting them only to members in good standing. The secretary suggested that the restricted pages be made available to non-members for an

annual fee. He explained that this type of restriction is commonplace with many publications that have an archive, as this organization does with its website. He suggested that annual fee for all active HFD members be \$10 and the fee for all others be \$25. Non-members would be issued a user name and password that would allow them to view all password-protected webpages except those for HFRA members only, which include the past minutes and financial statements. Brian Forsyth made a motion that the Association charge an annual fee of \$10 for all active HFD members and a \$25 fee for all others, to access the password-protected pages not meant exclusively for HFRA members. The motion was seconded by Harold Mangler. After a brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION – The Chair noted that he wanted to let the members know that he believes that Chief Berardesca is “in our corner” and has been very helpful to the aims of this organization.

The next Local 2687 Retirement dinner is scheduled for Saturday, April 8th at the Foxon Country House. Members will be duly notified by the Local.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance today. The members present decided by acclamation that the April meeting should be another 9 a.m. continental breakfast meeting like today’s meeting. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 12th at 9 a.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Don LaBanca and seconded by Tom Doherty to adjourn at 10:30 a.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



David G. Johnson
Secretary

21 members, 1 guest present: Buechele, Dobbs, Doherty, Fitzmaurice, Forsyth, Frodel, Johnson, Koutsopolos, LaBanca, Macauley, Mangler, Manware, R. Mordecai, Murphy, O’Dea, Poe, Spencer, Sanderson, Surprise, Williams and Yocher. Guest: Vic Mitchell