

Hamden Fire Retirees' Association, Inc.  
Minutes – October 11, 2018

President Bob Mordecai called the 39<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Hamden Fire Retirees' Association, Inc. to order at 5:54 p.m. at the Hamden Elks Hall on Thursday, October 11, 2018.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Chair requested a moment of silence in memory of our brother retiree, Douglas Yocher, who passed away on September 30<sup>th</sup> at the age of 79. Doug served on the department from July 1969 until his retirement in June 2000. He was also Chief of the Cheshire Fire Department from 1984 to 1987.

The chair welcomed member John Corbett, first president of Local 2687, who is visiting from his home in Florida, and member Bob Westervelt, who is in town from his home in Colorado.

MINUTES – The secretary read the minutes of the April meeting, the July summer meeting having been canceled. A motion was made by Bill Fitzmaurice, seconded by Don Buechele, to accept the minutes as read. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS – The secretary reported that he had received numerous press releases from Dep. Chief Gary Merwede, most dealing with structure fires, one of which being a mutual aid call to North Haven. He is usually notified of swearing-in ceremonies, to which all retirees are invited. The association received a thank-you letter from the Hamden Volunteer Firefighters Fireworks Committee for the \$100 donation we made last summer. The association acknowledged the deaths of two sons of our brother firefighters, John Rahl Jr., on May 24<sup>th</sup>, and Edward Charbonneau Jr., on August 21<sup>st</sup>, just a few days before what would have been the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the appointment of Ed Sr., who passed away suddenly in December of 1982.

We received photos from Jeff Pechmann of Doug Yocher in Cheshire's Memorial Day Parade. Ed Bevins Jr., whose dad was a Hamden career firefighter from 1949 until 1961, sent a newspaper photo of his dad with fellow Hamden firefighter William Esposito and their wives. Until now, those two Hamden firefighters were the only postwar department members for whom we had no photos. Firefighter Bevins died in April 2009, just before this association was organized. Firefighter Esposito, now 92, is believed to be still with us and living in Florida. We are trying to locate him.

Clark Hurlburt donated a program from the October 12, 2002 Madison Square Garden tribute to the members of the FDNY who died on 9/11. He noted that several Hamden Fire Department members were present at the event and each was asked to carry one of 343 American flags in the Honor Guard procession into the arena.

Former Hamden resident David Ormstedt of Bloomington, Indiana sent a \$50.00 donation, which will be used for website expenses. He will receive a five-year subscription to the archived pages.

The association was notified by Karyn Coppola in the Chief's Office that all retirees are invited to a reception in the town hall rotunda tomorrow at 10 a.m. for Chief Berardesca, who is retiring at the end of the day after having served just over 12 years as Hamden's fire chief. The Chief has been very supportive of our organization's efforts to preserve the department's history and has obtained funding to renovate the old one-room schoolhouse as a meeting hall and museum for the HFRA.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

April 1, 2018 – June 30, 2018  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2018

Checking balance as of April 1, 2018	\$ 1,367.70
Shares balance as of April 1, 2018	<u>138.45</u>
Total balance as of April 1, 2018	\$ 1,506.15

### Income:

Quarterly dividend (Into savings)	\$ 0.04
Dues:	
2018 – \$ 240.00	
2019 – 60.00	
PayPal (- \$2.96)	
Total dues collected	297.04
<i>Hamden Firefighting Sales</i>	
Royalties (Nov.-Mar.)	\$ 97.60
\$19 rate – 9 books	171.00
Donations: Book sales	8.00
Total: <i>Hamden Firefighting</i>	276.60
Website Password subscriptions	<u>10.00</u>
TOTAL income this quarter	\$ 583.68

### Expenses:

Refreshments (6 pizzas - Spring meeting)	86.40
Checks	19.96
Donation: Hamden Vol. Firefighters Fireworks Comm.	100.00
Postage	<u>54.16</u>
TOTAL expenses this quarter	\$ (- 260.52)

Transfers from Savings to Checking	\$ none
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Checking balance as of June 30, 2018	\$ 1,690.82
Shares balance as of June 30, 2018	<u>138.49</u>
Total balance as of June 30, 2018	\$ 1,829.31

### Activity from April 1 to April 11, 2018:

Income:	None
Expenses:	None

TOTAL balance in Credit Union as of 7/11/2018	\$ 1,829.31
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A motion to accept the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Treasurer's Report was made by Chick Manware, seconded by Bill Fitzmaurice, and carried unanimously.

July 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2018

Checking balance as of July 1, 2018	\$ 1,690.82
Shares balance as of July 1, 2018	<u>138.49</u>
Total balance as of July 1, 2018	\$ 1,829.31

Income:

Additional 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter dividend (savings)	\$ 0.03
3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter dividend (savings)	0.07
Dues:	
2018 – \$ 15.00	
2019 – 15.00	
Total dues collected	30.00
<i>Hamden Firefighting Sales</i>	
\$19 rate – 1 book	\$ <u>19.00</u>
Total: <i>Hamden Firefighting</i>	<u>19.00</u>
TOTAL income this quarter	\$ 49.10

Expenses \$ none

Transfers from Savings to Checking \$ none

Checking balance as of September 30, 2018	\$ 1,739.82
Shares balance as of September 30, 2018	<u>138.59</u>
Total balance as of September 30, 2018	\$ 1,878.41

*Activity from October 1 to October 11, 2018:*

*Income:*

<i>Donation: Ormstedt</i>	\$ 50.00
<i>Royalties (Hamden Firefighting)</i>	<u>89.84</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 139.84</b>

*Expenses:*

<i>Postage</i>	\$ 70.00
<i>Blank dues cards (200)</i>	<u>22.85</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$ - 92.85)</b>

TOTAL balance in Credit Union as of October 11, 2018 \$ 1,925.40

A motion to accept the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Treasurer's Report was made by Bill Fitzmaurice, seconded by Jim Leddy, and carried unanimously.

**COMMITTEES – Benefits Committee** – The secretary reported on the value of the pension plan, which was at \$165.5 million as of the August Dahab Report. The meetings are at 3 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. The October meeting was yesterday, but he was unable to attend. Anyone may attend these meetings.

**Sunshine Committee** – There was a good turnout of uniformed retirees for the Honor Guard last Thursday for Doug Yocher. The Honor Guard consisted of one member each from the Hamden and Cheshire departments. Seven uniformed Hamden retirees participated. Maryann Yocher requested four members from each department to be pall bearers, including at least one Hamden retiree, who was Harold Mangler.

**History Committee** – *Hamden Firefighting* - The secretary reported that sales of *Hamden Firefighting* through this association has totaled 115 copies thus far, leaving an inventory of 10 books on hand, the total sale price of which will be profit for the association. Total profit from the sale of the books thus far, including royalties, is \$865.34, not counting the anticipated income from the ten unsold books.

Schoolhouse – Not much to report. All further activity during the summer was postponed until after Labor Day due to illness among all three of the principal committee members. Chief Berardesca had \$50K placed in a capital projects account for the expressed purpose of renovating the old one-room schoolhouse behind Station 9 for our use as either a meeting hall, museum or both. The Hamden Historical Society is in favor of the move. In addition to the HFRA, the museum committee should consist of representatives from the active career members as well as the volunteer fire companies.

Website – The secretary noted that the website is now fully indexed and will be updated every month or so. Each of the hundreds of articles in the index is linked directly to where it is located.

The Network Solutions bill for the next two years arrived the day after our April meeting. A bill that large requires members' approval at a meeting. The Chair noted that the two-year bill is \$269.99, with an additional \$83.40 annual fee for the counter (\$6.95/mo).

The secretary noted that, with a shortage of new material, which has recently required recycling previously posted stuff, he will probably discontinue the weekly website updates by the 10th anniversary of the website next June. The website will continue as a blog, wherein new material is posted as it is received – a format used during the past several summers – but, at some point, new people are going to have to get involved with moving it forward.

The secretary noted that in recent years the association's website ([www.hamdenfireretirees.org](http://www.hamdenfireretirees.org)) has received lots of attention from various fire history aficionados in Connecticut and elsewhere as one of the finest history-oriented fire department websites out there. The Chair led the membership in a round of applause for the webmaster (sincerely appreciated). The Chair then asked for a motion from the floor to reimburse the secretary the amount of \$353.39 for website expenses for the next two years. Accordingly, said motion was made by Jim Leddy, seconded by Bill Fitzmaurice, and passed unanimously.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** – Nominations for president, vice president, secretary and treasurer for two years and a trustee for six years was next on the agenda. Before the Chair could turn the gavel over to the vice-president to accept nominations for president, a motion from the floor was offered by Jim Leddy, seconded by Bill Fitzmaurice, that the current slate of officers, including the trustee up for re-election, Bob Viglione, be re-nominated and that the nominations be closed. There was a discussion wherein the secretary attested that an entire slate may be nominated (or re-nominated) in one motion and that Bob Viglione has indicated his willingness to serve again as a trustee. The Chair asked three times if there were any other nominations. There being none, the Chair called for a vote on the motion to close the nominations, which passed unanimously.

Subsequently, a motion was made by Dennis Baker, seconded by Don Buechele, to have the secretary cast one ballot to elect the slate just nominated. Motion passed unanimously. Association officers for the calendar years of 2019 and 2020 are President Bob Mordecai, Vice-president Jim Dunlop; Secretary and Treasurer Dave Johnson. Bob Viglione will continue as a Trustee until the end of 2024. The other two association trustees are Gil Spencer (exp. 2020), and Jim Leddy (exp. 2022).

**OLD BUSINESS** – The Chair reported that on June 19<sup>th</sup> we were informed by the I.R.S. that we had been accepted as a 501(c)(7) non-profit tax-exempt organization.

**NEW BUSINESS** – There was a question on the current CPI, which is believed to be between 1 and 2 %, but that can change. The final figure will be known by early February.

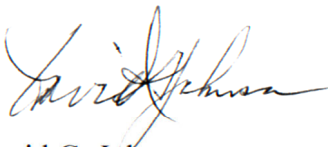
**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION** – Tom Doherty mentioned that several of our retirees are quite old and some are unable to get out much. He suggested that we ought to have a small committee of members who would be willing to contact these members and visit them periodically. There was some discussion about HIPAA laws that prevent disseminating medical info about our members. Tom mentioned that two weeks ago he and two other retirees had contacted Doug Yocher's wife to arrange a visit for the very day he was hospitalized. And they were again scheduled to visit him in the hospital the day after he passed.

[October 14<sup>th</sup>: The secretary can now report that visitors on the Sunshine Committee consist of Tom Doherty, Clark Hurlburt, Augie Williams, and the secretary. The committee will always call ahead, but will endeavor to visit our local homebound members at least once every month or so and report at each meeting.]

The next association meeting is scheduled for Wednesday or Thursday during the second week of January. For the past two January meetings, we have had a 9 a.m. "breakfast" meeting, which has brought a good turnout. As has been the practice, the E-Board will decide the exact day and time of the January meeting based on what's best for the HFRA members and the Elks, and all members will be notified well in advance.

There being no further business, a motion was made by John Corbett and seconded by Dan Murphy to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. Motion passed. The meeting was followed by a dinner in the bar area.

Respectfully submitted,



David G. Johnson  
Secretary

15 members: Anthony, Baker, Buechele, Corbett, Dobbs, Doherty, Dunlop, Fitzmaurice, Johnson, Leddy, Mangler, Manware, R. Mordecai, Murphy, and Westervelt. Guest: Vic Mitchell.