

Hamden Fire Retirees' Association, Inc.
Minutes – January 9, 2019

President Bob Mordecai called the 40th regular meeting of the Hamden Fire Retirees' Association, Inc. to order at 9:20 a.m. at the Hamden Elks Hall on Wednesday, January 9, 2019.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Chair requested a moment of silence in memory of our brother retirees, Milner Benham, who passed away on October 18th at the age of 90, and Ernie Braun, who passed away on October 31st at age 79.

The Chair welcomed our newest member, retired Chief David Berardesca, who retired in October after having served as head of the department since July 2006.

MINUTES – The secretary read the minutes of the October meeting. A motion was made by Chick Manware, seconded by Don LaBanca, to accept the minutes as read. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS – The secretary reported that he recently received a letter from a firm in Montreal, QUE, Canada, declaring that back in December 2016 the website had used an image of the late senator and astronaut, Col. John Glenn, without the permission of the copyright holder. The firm, allegedly representing the copyright holder, was seeking \$250 for the use of the image, which did not have a copyright symbol attached to it when it was captured from the Internet in 2016. Through inquiries on the Internet, the secretary and others in the Association have concluded that this is a scam. We will not respond to any further inquiries.

Regarding Internet scams, the Chair reported that the Association was contacted early last year by a third party trying to raise money for a former member. The writer wanted our members to contribute to a GoFundMe page to help with expenses for medical procedures and hospital visits that were found to be bogus. When we contacted the member, we were told that the effort was conducted without his knowledge by a well-meaning friend.

The Secretary reported that Mr. Richard Carroll has sent another generous donation of \$60 to help with website expenses. Mr. Carroll lives on Cape Cod and is an avid reader and fan of our website. His donation has been acknowledged and he has been granted a five-year subscription to the archived pages for non-members.

TREASURER'S REPORT - The 2018 4th Quarter and 2018 Annual Reports were both read and are available on the webpage for Treasurer's Reports.

Treasurer's 2018 4th Quarter Report:

Total balance in credit union as of October 1, 2018	\$ 1,878.41
4 th Quarter Income:	249.91
4 th Quarter Expenses:	(- 522.97)
Checking balance as of December 31, 2018	\$ 1,502.29*
Shares balance as of December 31, 2018	<u>138.66</u>
Total balance in credit union as of December 31, 2018	\$ 1,640.95

Treasurer's 2018 Annual Report:

Checking Account Balance – January 1, 2018	\$ 1,716.49
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Check #135 (12/21/2017) cleared on 1/2/2018 - 501(c)(7) app.	400.00*
Checking Account Balance – January 3, 2018	1,316.49
Shares Balance – January 1, 2018	<u>138.41</u>
Total in Credit Union – January 3, 2018	\$ 1,454.90

*This expense was declared on the 2017 4th Quarterly and the 2017 Annual Reports.

TOTAL 2018 INCOME	\$ 1,915.95
TOTAL 2018 EXPENSES	\$ (-1,765.50)
Checking balance as of December 31, 2018	\$ 1,502.29*
Shares balance as of December 31, 2018	<u>138.66</u>
Total balance as of December 31, 2018	\$ 1,640.95

*Not cleared as of December 31, 2018 - Check #154 / 12/24/2018 / Staples - \$35.60

A motion to accept both reports was made by Carl Backus and seconded by Don LaBanca. There was no discussion. The motion was carried unanimously.

COMMITTEES – Benefits Committee – The secretary reported on the value of the pension plan. The meetings are at 3 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. The January meeting will be this afternoon in the Government Center. Anyone may attend these meetings. Jim Leddy reported that the CPI is approximately 1.6%.

Sunshine Committee – The Chair reported for the Sunshine Committee:

- Gil Spencer still recovering
- Jimmy Moore has been in the hospital
- John O’Hare was scheduled for back surgery yesterday
- Bob Surprise is out of the hospital yesterday
- Karen Forsyth throat cancer – prognosis is good
- Have tried repeatedly to reach Harold Prescher

History Committee – *Hamden Firefighting* - The secretary reported that sales of *Hamden Firefighting* through this association has totaled 118 copies thus far, leaving an inventory of 7 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 \$925.34, not counting the anticipated income from the seven unsold books.

Schoolhouse – The Secretary reported that there has been little movement on this project, and he is worried that the funds set aside last year by Chief Berardesca might go away if we do not act soon. Fellow Schoolhouse Committee member Tom Doherty and he invited Jim Wetmore to join them in an inspection of the building last March, when they took many photos of the interior. Tom invited Jim to today’s meeting because, as a longtime member of Co. 7, Jim and some of his fellow Co. 7 members want to be involved with the proposed museum. Their 100-year old chemical truck would be housed there if the old bay could be reconstructed the it was from 1957 to 1968.

The Secretary suggested that a separate legal entity ought to be organized to oversee and manage the museum. It would consist of representatives from the retirees, volunteers, career members, and the public in order to qualify for 501(c)(3) status. There was a discussion on possibly getting legal advice on how to get started.

OLD BUSINESS – The Schoolhouse Committee report was covered under the previous topic.

NEW BUSINESS – Tom Doherty asked how many members are in the Association. The Secretary noted that, with about 100 or so living retirees, there are 88 living retirees and former career members on our regular member roster. [Right now, we have 60 paid up members, with the remaining 28 members usually paid the April meeting.]

The Chair introduced Chief-designate Gary Merwede, who noted that the \$50K is still in the account to repair the old schoolhouse. All there needs to be is to have the committee approach the town to get the building repaired.

The Secretary will contact the Mayor's Office to see if a meeting can be arranged to reiterate our association's desire to have the old schoolhouse rehabilitated for a use as a fire museum and a possible meeting hall. We also want to ensure that the \$50K allocated by Chief Berardesca in the capital fund for that purpose does not get appropriated elsewhere in the meantime. [Note: Later, on January 9th, the Secretary met with Mayor Leng's secretary, Rose Lion, who was able arrange a meeting with Mayor Leng for Thursday, January 24th.]

Chief Merwede thanked the members, many of whom mentored him during his formative years on the department. (The members will be notified of the swearing-in ceremony.)

The Chair suggested that any improvements made to the schoolhouse will be done properly by licensed contractors, at least one of whom is a fire retiree (although not a member of this body).

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION – There was a brief, humorous discussion on who might become the next Assistant Chief. Chick Manware declined.

The Chair announced that the next meeting will be on Thursday, April 11th. A show of hands determined that it will begin at 5 p.m. There was a brief discussion on the possibility that the Elks building may be sold. We have been told by people in the Elks organization that our Association will be welcome to meet wherever they have their new quarters.

As always, the Secretary will notify all members at least one week before the meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Jim Leddy and seconded by Chick Manware to adjourn at 9:55 a.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



David G. Johnson
Secretary

22 members: Anthony, Backus, Berardesca, Buechele, Castracane, Dobbs, Doherty, Dunlop, Frodel, Johnson, Kopjanski, Koutsopolos, Leddy, Mangler, Manware, R. Mordecai, Murray, O'Dea, Poe, Reynolds, Viglione, and Williams. Guests (4): Chief Gary Merwede, Barb Johnson, Vic Mitchell, and Jim Wetmore.