

Hamden Fire Retirees' Association, Inc.  
Minutes – July 10, 2019

President Bob Mordecai called the 42<sup>nd</sup> regular meeting of the Hamden Fire Retirees' Association, Inc. to order at 5:10 p.m. in the upstairs main hall of the Hamden Elks Lodge on Wednesday, July 10, 2019.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Chair requested a moment of silence in memory of our brother member, Capt. Robert Chadwick, who passed away on April 24<sup>th</sup>, and Honorary Member Bonnie Cargan, wife of our late brother Firefighter Charlie "Chaz" Cargan (1941-2013). Bonnie passed away last Monday.

**MINUTES** – The secretary read the minutes of the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. A motion was made by Don LaBanca, seconded by Carl Backus, to accept the minutes as read. Motion passed unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – The secretary reported receiving several videos from the Chief's Office regarding new high elevation rescue techniques. The videos have been posted on the website. The Chief's annual invitation for retirees to march in the Memorial Day Parade was received. The secretary reported that Chief Merwede has acknowledged that older retirees with dress blues who might have difficulty marching the entire parade route are welcome to ride one of the apparatus in the parade.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - The secretary read the 2019 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report.

April 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019

Checking balance as of April 1, 2019	\$ 724.63
Shares balance as of April 1, 2019	<u>1,639.36</u>
Total balance as of April 1, 2019	\$ 2,363.99

Income:

2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter dividend (savings)	\$ 0.82
Donations received – (Barletta – subscription)	10.00
Dues: 2018	15.00
Dues: 2019	135.00
Dues: 2020	<u>30.00</u>
TOTAL income this quarter	\$ 190.82

Expenses:

PayPal (from \$10 donation)	\$ .59
U.S.P.S. – 100 postcard stamps	35.00
Tonino's Pizza (6 pizzas - April Meeting)	<u>98.27</u>
	\$ (-133.86)

Transfers from Checking to Savings - None

Checking balance as of June 30, 2019	\$ 780.77
Shares balance as of June 30, 2019	<u>1,640.18</u>
Total balance as of June 30, 2019	\$ 2,420.95

*Activity from July 1 to July 10, 2019:*

*Income since 6/30: \$60 - dues*

*Expenses since 6/30: \$20.20 – card stock for postcards*

TOTAL balance in Credit Union as of July 10, 2019

\$ 2,460.75

When asked about the donation, the secretary indicated that we are no longer calling subscription payments “fees,” because doing so may compromise our status as a non-profit. Going forward, any remittance received for a website subscription or anything else the association offers will be termed a “voluntary donation.”

A motion to accept the report was made by Carl Backus and seconded by Jim Leddy. There was no discussion. The motion was carried unanimously.

**COMMITTEES – Benefits Committee** – The Chair reviewed the business covered at the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Hamden Guardians Services Retirees Association. [NOTE: Presently, every HFRA member is also a member of the HGSRA. For more detailed information, members are advised to check the minutes of the June 24<sup>th</sup> HGSRA meeting, which were recently emailed to all members.]

The secretary explained why the town must now adopt an annual Medicare reimbursement.

The secretary reviewed recent Retirement Board efforts to recoup pension overpayments due to annual 3% COLAs made in errors until May 2012, including the business conducted at today’s Retirement Board meeting. The Board is going to hire the Segal Company for \$10,600 to determine the amount of COLA overpayments made to living retirees who retired prior to December 2011.

HPD retiree Bob Maturo, who was permitted to address today’s Retirement Board meeting, told the Board that at a 2002 meeting the Board decided to determine at some future date whether “the bank” (the accumulated COLA percentages over 3%) was an individual bank or a group bank. But, as Maturo reported, there is no record that the Board ever made that determination. Instead, they continued to pay the COLA as a “group bank.”

The Chair and the secretary opined that since the COLA error was not the fault of the retirees, all expenses to recoup the overpayments, including interest, ought to be borne by either the Town or the Retirement Board, whichever of the two entities is responsible for the error.

Retirees are encouraged to attend future Retirement Board meetings, which begin at 3:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month, in the meeting room on the top floor of the Government Center, 2750 Dixwell Avenue.

**Sunshine Committee** – The secretary reported that following the April meeting, Chief Merwede sent a letter to Joe Rahl offering him the best wishes of the active HFD members. A card was sent to Bob and Karen Slater on the loss of their son, Eric last April.

New association members are Kevin Shields, Ralph DiFonzo, and Bill Bossoli, who served from 1950 until 1956 and just turned 100 years of age on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**History Committee** – Schoolhouse – Nothing new. Website – no longer a weekly updated blog, but an ongoing monthly blog that will be archived at the end of each month. We received Jerry Wolf’s “Hamden” fire mark from his son, John, along with some photos. The copyright claim

by Agence Presse-France through Higbee Assoc. of California is being handled by a prominent Hamden attorney on behalf of the secretary. The attorney is convinced it is a scam.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS** – Based on recent feedback from some members, the secretary suggested that we eliminate the Summer meeting and make the other three meetings four months apart. After a lengthy discussion, and with no objections being voiced to the proposed change, the consensus of the members present was that an appropriately worded by-law change to that effect be presented for a vote in October. The by-law change would stipulate that henceforth the HFRA will meet three months annually, with a morning meeting in February, an evening meeting June, and an afternoon meeting October.

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION** – The Chair recognized the presence of former HFRA president Mark Barletta, who is visiting from his home in Florida.

The Chair noted that the next meeting will be held on Thursday afternoon, October 10<sup>th</sup>. Four of our deceased members will be honored and their families presented with HFRA memorial plaques. They are Doug Yocher, Milner Benham, Ernie Braun and Bob Chadwick.

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 Mark Barletta and seconded by Harold Mangler to adjourn at 5:51 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



David G. Johnson  
Secretary

20 members: Backus, Baker, Barletta, Berardesca, DeBurra, Dobbs, Dunlop, Fitzmaurice, Forsyth, Frodel, Johnson, Koutsopolos, LaBanca, Leddy, Mangler, R. Mordecai, Murray, Purificato, Viglione, and Williams. Guest: Vic Mitchell