

Hamden Fire Retirees' Association, Inc.
Minutes – January 12, 2023

President Bob Mordecai called the 52nd regular meeting of the Hamden Fire Retirees' Association, Inc. to order at 9:20 a.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at the Hamden Elks' Hall.

The Chair opened the meeting by having members and guests stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All remained standing for a moment of silence in memory of member Anthony "Moonman" Melillo, who passed away October 19th and North Haven Firefighter Matthias Wirtz who died in the line of duty on December 26th.

MINUTES – The Secretary read the minutes of the October meeting. A motion was made by Harold Mangler, seconded by Jeff Pechmann, and passed to accept the minutes as corrected.

COMMUNICATIONS – The Secretary reported that the Association received a Christmas card from Joe Mulligan, and Ralph Purificato notified the Association of his recent move to South Carolina. Also, retired B/C Rich Otlowski, who retired at the end of November, is the Association's newest member.

TREASURER'S REPORT – The Secretary-Treasurer read the report for the fourth quarter of 2022.

Checking balance as of October 1, 2022	\$ 545.87
Shares balance as of October 1, 2022	<u>3,523.30</u>
Total balance as of October 1, 2022	\$ 4,069.17
Income (4 th quarter)	\$ 340.44
Expenses (4 th quarter)	(- 366.34)
Transfers from Checking to Savings	\$ None
Checking balance as of December 31, 2022	\$ 519.53
Shares balance as of December 31, 2022	<u>3,523.74</u>
Total balance as of December 31, 2022	\$ 4,043.27
Activity since Dec. 31, 2022:	
Checks still out as of January 1, 2023 – (#200 – U.S.P.S.)	44.00
Income:	
Total Income since 12/31/2022	\$ 270.00
Expenses:	
Total Expenses since 12/31/2022	\$ 48.04
Checking balance as of January 12, 2023	\$ 741.49

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022
January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022
(Complete details are in the Treasurer's Report)

Checking balance as of January 1, 2022	\$ 1,313.03
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Shares balance as of January 1, 2022	2,974.76
Total balance as of January 1, 2022	\$ 4,229.79
Income - January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022	\$ 1,011.35
Transfers - January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 4/15/2022	\$ 452.81
Expenses - January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022	(- 1,300.31)
Check #200 – USPS - not cleared by 12/31	\$ 44.00*
Checking balance as of December 31, 2022	\$ 571.26
Shares balance as of December 31, 2022	3,523.74
Total balance as of December 31, 2022	\$ 4,229.79

A motion was made by Paul Frodel, seconded by Carl Backus, to accept the fourth quarter report. Passed unanimously.

COMMITTEES – Benefits Committee – The Chair reported on the results of the recent settlement between the Hamden Guardian Services Retirees Association and the Town of Hamden over the COLA overpayments, wherein the HGSRA agreed to the pension recalculations in September 2020 and the Town agreed not to pursue recovery of the overpayments made to retirees before that date.

Sunshine Committee – The Secretary reported that several members attended the December 3rd military burial ceremony of member Tony Melillo, a veteran of the Vietnam War. A card was prepared for members to sign for Paul Turner, who is still recovering from a stroke he suffered in September.

There was a discussion on the need for more volunteers for the Sunshine Committee.

History Committee – The Secretary asked Vic Mitchell, who was present, to report on what is in the works for a possible fire museum in the old one-room schoolhouse in West Woods. Vic Reported that Mayor Garrett’s chief-of-staff, Sean Grace, is very enthusiastic about the project. Vic noted that in a recent conversation with Mr., Grace, the schoolhouse has been emptied of all items from other departments. He hopes to have a meeting with Mr. Grace in early February at which a committee to organize the project is expected to be formed consisting of members from this association, Local 2687, and the volunteers. It is hoped that soon we may start moving some of our archived items into a secure and lockable room at the schoolhouse.

Vic spoke with Capt. Dan Such, who is a structural engineer, who will be able to determine the feasibility of converting the meeting room back into a bay for the 1918 Brockway, which Co. 7 wishes to donate to the museum. Vic noted that Jim Wetmore, the last person who knew how to operate the Brockway, passed away late last year. The Hamden Historical Society also wishes to contribute items for any spaces in the building that will be used to commemorate the building’s distinction of being Hamden’s last one-room schoolhouse.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – Tom Doherty suggested a dues increase from \$15 to \$20 annually. The only other increase, from \$12 to \$15, was made in 2013. Postage for this association is a significant part of our budget, and postage has gone from 49¢ to 63¢ since the last dues increase. Tom Doherty made a motion, seconded by the Secretary, to increase dues from \$15 annually to \$20 annually beginning in 2024. The motion passed unanimously. [Secretary’s note: Changing the dues rate requires a change in Article XI, Sec. 1 of the by-laws. Therefore, this must be successfully voted on again at the April meeting to become effective.]

The Secretary noted that we traditionally confer Honorary Membership on all members’ widows. He made a motion, seconded by Bob Mordecai, to add Betty Melillo to our roster of HFRA Honorary Members. The motion passed unanimously.

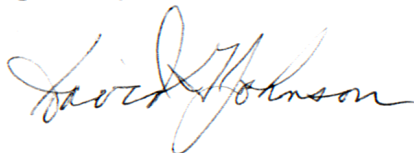
The Secretary noted that Vic Mitchell, who has significant ties to the department and who is now a fire commissioner, has provided much assistance to our group since the beginning. He meets the criteria for Honorary Member status as set forth in our by-laws, an “individual who, by outstanding effort on his/her part, has demonstrated that he/she is sincerely sympathetic to the purposes and objectives of the Association.” The Secretary nominated Vic Mitchell to Honorary Member status in the HFRA. The motion was seconded by acclamation and was passed unanimously. Vic accepted the motion with thanks by recalling his years working with our members in the Shop and as a dispatcher in the old Alarm Room at headquarters. In April, he will celebrate his 50th anniversary as a Hamden volunteer firefighter.

Jeff Pechmann asked about the change in the pension amounts that everyone received on January 1st. The Chair explained that it was due to a new law that requires recalculation of withholding tax figures. If the pensioner did not provide that recalculation, the government assigns its own figures based on pensioner’s gross annual income. To correct the situation the pensioner must submit his completed IRS 1099 form to the Finance Office.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION – The next meeting will be an afternoon meeting during the second week of April. Members will be notified of the exact day and time as the date nears.

A motion was made by Carl Backus, seconded by Jim Leddy, to adjourn at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David G. Johnson
Secretary

Members: (20): C. Backus, D. Berardesca, M. DeLine Sr., T. Doherty, G. Edwards, P. Frodel, C. Hurlburt, D. Johnson, J. Leddy, H. Mangler, F. Manware, V. Mitchell (H), J. Mordecai, R. Mordecai, J. Pechmann, J. Spencer, D. Strawhince, R. Surprise, R. Tortora, and R. Viglione.