

Town of Hamden  
**Fire Commission Regular Meeting**  
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.  
Legislative Council Auditorium  
Memorial Town Hall at 2372 Whitney Avenue, Hamden

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A regular meeting of the Hamden Fire Commission opened on March 15, 2023 at the Hamden Memorial Town Hall, located at 2372 Whitney Avenue.

Commissioners in Attendance: Nancy Hill, Victor Mitchell, Samod Rankins, and Gary Tinney, Chair. Also in Attendance: Fire Chief Jeffrey Naples; Town Attorney, Sue Gruen; Clerk for the Commission, Patrice LeMoine. Absent: Cherlyn Poindexter.

- 1. Call to Order:** Mr. Tinney called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A roll call was taken, confirming a quorum was present.
- 2. Public and Media Comments regarding the Agenda:** No one present.
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Tinney requested a motion to approve the past minutes. Mr. Rankins motioned to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2023 minutes, as presented; and was seconded by Ms. Hill. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Old Business:**
  - a. Volunteer Firefighter update – Mr. Mitchell noted we continue with the training; the current volunteers were recertified for brush fires. To-date eight have enrolled to become volunteers and were recertified last February. A few new members have shown interest to joining the VFD. There are a few issues to be addressed; one issue is the background verification; working on the social media to assist the recruitment; and Fire Marshall Dolan is offering his time to attract new recruits.
  - b. Chief Shelly Carter to present the Girls Future Firefighter Camp – Chief Carter was invited to present her program called “Girls Future Firefighter Camp (GFFC)”, which works out of the emergency services program in Southbury. She first gave a brief summary of her background, where she received a doctorate in public health; how she became a firefighter and eventually a fire chief. After she learned of the program in Texas, she and her husband opened a similar camp in 2015, introducing over 250 ladies to her program. The camp holds volunteers from emergency personnel and firefighters. Chief Carter then explained the program that is designed for the GFFC.

The Commissioners inquired about the details of the program. The lady campers receive experience viewing a fire emergency, utilizing emergency equipment, preparing reports for the fire marshal, court reports, and insurance reports. Chief Carter emphasized the program is a safe space for a young voice to feel comfortable to ask questions about the emergency situations, etc. To the end, she discussed her funding and grant opportunities.

The Commissioners commended Chief Carter on the wonderful work this program is offering and is a great way to make the introduction to young women to consider emergency services, like firefighting and becoming a paramedic.

c. Promotional Testing update – Fire Chief Naples noted he is working with Civil Services to meeting three testing companies and one of them will be holding the testing for internal promotions.

**5. New Business:**

a. Departmental Reports – Fire Chief Naples noted two letters received. One from David Lemiel wrote a letter complimenting Fire Lieutenant R. Pouncey and a complimentary letter from D. Feegan regarding B. Dolan. He then reviewed the Fire Departments Call Report and noted the increase volume in emergency calls. Fire Chief Naples noted the support services has been continually active, noting the Red Cross and Keefe Community Center are there whenever there is an emergency. He then reviewed the Fire Marshal and Fire Inspection reports and added that a new plan will be established. A request was presented to the Mayor’s office to add an administrative support person to the department and it was approved for the next fiscal year. This will be a great asset to this division.

Fire Chief Naples then reviewed the March employment roster. There are currently two vacant paramedic firefighter positions and soon two more will become vacant, creating a total of four this summer. We will look to fill the four positions and one Fire Lieutenant position this summer.

He introduced a new training program – Tuesday Night Training (TNT), which will be held at the Hamden Middle School. We are looking for students and adults (14 years of age or older) to enroll, a maximum of 100. April 4 is the first training session with CPR being the first course. The program will go until June 6 and then start back up this September with a number of programs to introduce.

b. Commissions Informational Fair – Mr. Tinney noted the Mayor and Town Clerk’s office set-up an informational fair last weekend and it carried a strong attendance. The Hamden Fire Commission hosted a booth.

c. S. Rankins noted the upcoming communication from W. Morton who is hosting a fundraiser on May 19. It is the Elm City Fitness Community Challenge or also called the Elm City Fit, a challenge 4 x 4 x 48, begins May 19 and ends May 21. We would like to invite members of the Commissioner to support the event and B. Dolan has offered his time to support the event.

**6. Ratification** of votes taken at the special meeting of the Fire Commission held on December 12, 2022; to reflect the vote to appoint a candidate for the Fire Inspector position and a vote to appoint a candidate for the Fire Battalion Chief position.

Mr. Tinney motioned to ratify the votes taken at the special meeting of the Fire Commission held on December 12, 2022. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion. A discussion was held.

The Chair, Mr. Tinney, requested a vote for each Commissioner to hereby ratify and reaffirm the nomination of the candidate for the Fire Inspector position and the vote to fill the Fire Battalion Chief position as presented at the special meeting held on December 12, 2022 (see **Attachment A**).

The Chair called for a vote:

Nancy Hill	Yea	S. Rankins	Abstain
Victor Mitchell	Yea	Gary Tinney	Yea

The vote passed (three in favor, one abstention).

7. **Other items for discussion:** There was nothing to present.
8. **Executive Session:** Nothing to present.
9. **Adjournment:** Mr. Tinney requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rankins motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. Mr. Mitchell seconded, and all were in favor.

Submitted by:

*s/Patrice A. LeMoine*  
Clerk for the Commission

Town of Hamden  
**Fire Commission Special Meeting**  
Monday, December 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.  
Memorial Town Hall at 2372 Whitney Avenue, Hamden

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A special meeting of the Hamden Fire Commission opened on December 12, 2022 in the Legislative Auditorium at Memorial Town Hall.

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Nancy Hill, Victor Mitchell, Cherlyn Poindexter, and Gary Tinney, Chair. Also in Attendance: Fire Chief Jeffrey Naples; Town Attorney Sue Gruen, Attorney Dennis Dureo; and Clerk for the Commission Patrice LeMoine. Absent: Samod Rankins. For the record, members of the public were in attendance for the meeting.

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Tinney, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. A roll call was taken, confirming a quorum was present. To note, this evening's agenda would not be deviated since this is a special meeting.
2. **Approval of the Fire Commission's 2023 meeting schedule:**  
Mr. Tinney requested a motion to approve the 2023 meeting schedule as presented. Mr. Mitchell motioned to approve the 2023 meeting schedule for the Hamden Fire Commission as presented and was seconded by Ms. Poindexter. All were in favor. The motion passed.
3. **Department Updates:**
  - a. **Personnel:** Update regarding entry-level Firefighter/EMT list – Fire Chief Naples noted the current list carries 64 individuals; however, Personnel contacted him earlier this evening to say a few updates are needed and a new list will be provided on December 13.
  - b. **Personnel:** Update regarding entry-level Firefighter/Paramedic list – Fire Chief Naples said to-date there are four applicants, and the department requested the list to remain open so that additional applicants may apply.
  - c. **Fire Department:** Current Vacancies – The department roster was reviewed, and we may have four (4) vacant Firefighter/Paramedic positions to fill this January/February 2023.
4. **Executive Session:** At 6:06 p.m. Mr. Tinney requested a motion to go into session for the purpose to conduct interviews for the hiring of one (1) Fire Inspector position and one (1) Fire Battalion Chief position. Ms. Poindexter motioned to go into session and was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. The motion passed unanimously. At this time, the

Commissioners, Attorneys Gruen and Dureo withdrew from the Auditorium and moved to MTH 01 conference room.

At 8:16 p.m. Mr. Tinney requested a motion to end executive session. Ms. Poindexter motioned to end executive session and was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. For the record, Attorneys Gruen and Dureo withdrew from the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Chair Mr. Tinney requested a motion to nominate the candidate for the Fire Inspector position. Mr. Mitchell voted to appoint Mr. Russell Quick to the position of Fire Inspector, and Ms. Poindexter seconded the motion. The chair then called for a vote:

Nancy Hill	Nay
Victor Mitchell	Yea
Cherlyn Poindexter	Nay
Gary Tinney	Nay

The vote did not pass due to three opposed and one in favor.

Chair Mr. Tinney requested a motion to fill the Fire Battalion Chief position. Mr. Mitchell voted to appoint Mr. Jason Blyth to the position of Fire Battalion Chief. Ms. Hill seconded. The chair then called for a vote:

Nancy Hill	Yea
Victor Mitchell	Yea
Cherlyn Poindexter	Yea
Gary Tinney	Yea

The vote passed unanimously (four in favor, no opposed).

5. **Adjournment.** Mr. Tinney requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Hill motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. Ms. Poindexter seconded, and all were in favor.

Submitted by:

*s/Patrice A. LeMoine*  
Clerk for the Commission