

Hamden Fire Retirees' Association, Inc.
Minutes – October 11, 2023

President Bob Mordecai called the 55th regular meeting of the Hamden Fire Retirees' Association, Inc. to order at 2:08 p.m. on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at the Hamden Elks' Hall. The person responsible for opening the building never showed, so we were fortunate that the weather was good enough to conduct the meeting on the outside the building near the bocce court, where six picnic tables are located.

The Chair opened the meeting by having members stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

COMMUNICATIONS – The Secretary reported that the present owner of Co. 9's old parade piece, a 1929 Seagrave tiller ladder truck, reached out to our Association for more information on the truck. More under History Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT – The Secretary-Treasurer read the report for the third quarter of 2023.

TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT

July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023

Checking balance as of July 1, 2023	\$ 507.94
Shares balance as of July 1, 2023	<u>3,524.67</u>
Total balance as of July 1, 2023	\$ 4,032.61

Income:

Donation (Carroll)	\$ 75.00
Dues (2023)	75.00
Dues (2024)	<u>40.00</u>
TOTAL 1st quarter income	\$ 190.00

Expenses:

7/3/2023 - USPS – 200 postcard stamps	\$ 96.00
9/25/2023 – Barker Specialties (Melillo Plaque)	<u>42.99</u>
TOTAL 3rd quarter expenses	\$ 138.99

Checking balance as of September 30, 2023	\$ 558.95
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Shares balance as of July 1, 2023	\$ 3,524.67
Dividend (3 rd quarter - Shares Account)	<u>0.44</u>
Shares balance as of June 30, 2023	\$ 3,525.11

Checking balance as of September 30, 2023	\$ 558.95
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Shares balance as of September 30, 2023	<u>3,525.11</u>
Total balance as of September 30, 2023	\$ 4,084.06
Income since September 30, 2023:	NONE
Expenses since 9/30/2023	
10/10/2023 – Big Y (Cake)	\$ 23.39
Checking balance as of 4/13/2023	\$ 535.56
Shares balance as of 10/11/2023 -	<u>3,525.11</u>
TOTAL as of 10/11/2023	\$ 4,060.67

A motion was made by Jeff Pechmann, seconded by Harold Mangler, to accept the second quarter treasurer's report. Passed unanimously.

COMMITTEES – Benefits Committee – The Chair reported that the HGSRA is going to start reaching out to all fire and police retirees as the organization will remain active just in case the Town makes any future moves on retirees' benefits.

Sunshine Committee – The Chair introduced member Ed Kopjanski, who was able to attend today's meeting. The Secretary reported that he and Tom Doherty visited Gil Spencer a few weeks ago and that he enjoys visits from former colleagues.

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

History Committee – The Secretary reported that the Mt. Carmel Volunteer Fire Co. has donated its building and property to the town since it has gone inactive due to an active membership of one. There will be a formal ceremony to turn over the building sometime in November and all Co. 5 alumni and all active and retired HFD will be invited. Cos. 7 and 8 will provide exterior firefighting assistance in the future.

The website has not been updated since August due to some health issues and poor Internet connections, which has been resolved.

The Chair reported that he met with the mayor regarding the old schoolhouse and the HFRA's desire to have students from Eli Whitney provide some of the labor to perform necessary renovations to the building. The plan is to form a museum committee with a 501(c)3 IRS tax exempt status, consisting of HFRA members, local members, volunteers, and the public, to be administered by the HFRA, to obtain a \$1/year lease on the building. The intention is to reconstitute the old truck bay to house Co. 7's 1918 Brockway chemical truck, which they plan to donate to the museum.

The Secretary reported on contacting the present owner of Co. 9's 1929 Seagrave ladder truck, purchased by the West Woods Volunteer Fire Co. in the early 1960's and sold sometime in the mid 1970's. The gentleman is going to send photos of the truck and the Secretary will send him the photos we have of the truck. The man made no indication that he wanted to sell the truck, only that he was looking for information about the truck when the West Woods Volunteer Fire Company owned it.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS – The Chair noted that the newly created position of Recording Secretary needs to be filled. Secretary Dave Johnson nominated Jeff

Pechmann. Bill Fitzmaurice made a motion, seconded by Don LaBanca, to have the Secretary cast one ballot on behalf of the membership to elect Jeff as Recording Secretary. Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – The Chair introduced Betty Melillo, widow of our brother Firefighter Tony “Moonman” Melillo, who passed away last October 19th. Tony served on the department from 1969 until his 1996 retirement. The Chair then brought up Eddie Kopjanski to assist in presenting the Association’s memorial plaque to Betty. President Mordecai noted that Tony was one of the crew at Station 2 when he was appointed in 1978, and Ed Kopjanski was the most senior firefighter in the crew. Together, Mordecai and Kopjanski presented Tony’s memorial plaque to Betty, who expressed her sincere thanks and noted that Tony loved being a firefighter and the people he worked with. Several other members talked of their friendship with Tony over the years.

Following the plaque presentation, President Bob Mordecai and Vice president Bill Fitzmaurice presented Betty with her certificate of Honorary Membership, to which she was voted at the July meeting.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION – John Spencer noted that at a recent meeting of the Retirement Board there was a discussion about the possibility of having retirees represented on the Board. The Chair noted that has been suggested by the executive board of the HGSRA because at some point the pool of potential Board members will be reduced to a point when getting someone to serve will be quite problematic.

The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday morning, January 11th at 9 a.m.

A motion was made by Ralph Tortora, seconded by Don LaBanca, to adjourn at 2:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David G. Johnson
Recording Secretary pro-tem

Members (15): K. Castracane, T. Doherty, W. Fitzmaurice, D. Johnson, E. Kopjanski, D. LaBanca, H. Mangler, F. Manware, R. Mordecai, M. Murray, J. Pechmann, J. Spencer, R. Tortora, R. Viglione, and Betty Melillo (H).

Guests (3): Laura D'Ernco, Alison Budnich, and Barbara Johnson.