

will be trained in their use. He further stated that a fire captain had already attended a training seminar on these units and would train the twenty member rescue squad. He further stated the cost of establishing such a unit would be approximately \$48,000.

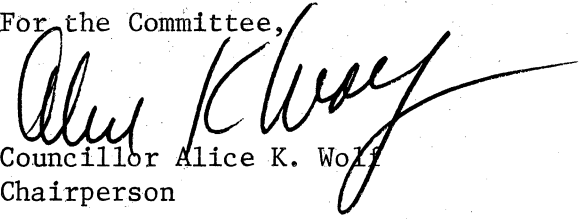
Councillor Wolf questioned whether or not a "master list" existed which indicated where all hazardous material was either stored or being experimented with throughout the city. Chief Scott responded by stating that generally speaking both Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology inform the department on such matters of storage or experimentation. He further stated that the department is currently working with both institutions in an effort to identify each room or building where hazardous material is present. This he said, would be an additional safeguard to firefighters in the event of a fire.

At this time both Councillors Wolf and Councillor Walter Sullivan agreed that a representative of the Fire Department should be appointed to the Scientific Advisory Board. Furthermore the committee agreed to inform the City Manager of the following:

1. They supported the Chief's request for money to make capital improvements within the department.
2. They supported the Chief's request for \$48,000 for the establishment of a "Hasmat Unit".
3. Requested Captain John O'Donahue meet with the full committee in order to full explain the "Hasmat Unit".
4. Repairs should be made at both Engine 6 (River Street) and Engine 7 (Main Street). Both stations are in immediate need of major renovations.
5. The City Manager should review a proposal by M.I.T. to relocate the Engine 7 firehouse from Main Street to a parcel of land at the corner of Binney Street and Fulkerson Street.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

For the Committee,

  
Councillor Alice K. Wolf  
Chairperson

AKW/smc

# City of Cambridge

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In City Council April 9, 1984

**The** Committee on Public Safety conducted a public meeting on Tuesday, April 3, 1984 beginning at 8:30 AM at Fire Headquarters in the Chief's office.

Councillor Alice Wolf, Chairperson of the committee, opened the meeting by stating the purpose of the meeting was to get an understanding of the overall operation of the department as well as to determine what, if any, were the "capitol needs" of the department.

At this time Fire Chief Thomas V. Scott outlined to the committee his request of \$645,000 for capitol improvements for the department. He stated he had requested this through the City Manager for the purpose of replacing, and/or refurbishing fire equipment. He further stated that some equipment could be refurbished rather than completely replacing it, which results in significant cost saving. He also stated he has serious concern regarding the present fire alarm communications system which was originally built in 1934. He stated that the department is currently looking at a more state of the art faculty at a cost of approximately \$800,000.

Mr. Richard Rossi, Deputy City Manager, stated that although the City Manager agreed that the need exists for such improvements it is unclear at this time how to fund the request for the communications system.

At this time Councillor Wolf questioned the capability of the department in terms of dealing with a fire in a high rise building. Chief Scott responded by stating that his fire prevention people under the direction of Deputy Chief William Cantwell regularly conduct seminars in fire prevention for people who live and/or work in high rise structures. These seminars include identification of the nearest exit, stairwells and fire extinguishers. He further stated that no fire apparatus exists that would adequately fight a high rise fire.

At this time Councillor Wolf questioned whether or not a problem existed regarding arson in the city. Chief Scott responded by stating some fires had occurred which were of suspicious origin but that it was not an organized effort. He further stated he has four arson inspectors which constitutes the arson squad under the direction of Deputy Chief Kevin Fitzgerald and it is complimented by a state trooper assigned by the State Fire Marshall. He further stated that this particular unit was created under the direction of former Chief Daniel Reagan and that he (Chief Scott) has continued the practice.

At this time Chief Scott stated that with the increased public awareness of toxic gas, experimentation and transportation, the National Fire Academy has developed a "Hazmat Unit" which would provide for special suits, helmets and radio equipment which will be assigned to the Rescue Squad, all of whom

**REPORT****Committee on Public Safety**

Re: Fire Dept. facilities, staffing &  
capital needs.

4/9/84

- Request for City Solicitor

In City Council,

April 9, 1984

4/9/84

Placed on File