

HOPEWELL BOROUGH BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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Hopewell, NJ 08525

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AGENDA

November 14, 2012

Call to order:

Flag Salute

Notification of meeting (Sunshine Law)

Roll call

Minutes: (October 10, 2012)

Public Comment:

Treasurer's Report:

Fire Department Administration:

Ladies' Auxiliary

EMU Chief Report:

Fire Chief Report:

Fire Official Report: On file

Committee Reports:

Attorney Report:

Other Business:

Resolution 2012-024 2012 Budget Transfer Resolution

Resolution 2012-025 Shared Service Agreement Approval

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
HOPEWELL BOROUGH DISTRICT NO. 1**

October 10, 2012

PRESENT: Cmsr. Anderson
Cmsr. Evans
Chair Morehouse
Cmsr. Reichman
ABSENT: Cmsr. Bovenizer

The scheduled meeting of the Board was called to order by Chairman Morehouse at 7:30 pm. Proof of publication under the Open Public Meetings Law (Annual Meeting Notice published in the official newspapers of the district, posted at the Hopewell Borough Municipal Building and the Board offices) was provided.

Minutes: (September 26, 2012)

On a motion made by Cmsr. Anderson and seconded by Cmsr. Evans, the minutes of September 26, 2012 were approved with the following correction: Audible sirens for EMS calls will not sound from 7 pm (not 10 pm as written) to 6 am, unless there is not a timely response to the silent dispatch. (Cmsr. Reichman was absent and did vote on the motion)

Public Comment:

NJ State 1st Aid Council presentation by Mel Myers -
Mr. Myers updated the board on activities of the council, a state-wide volunteer group that advocates for EMS volunteers, particularly with the state legislature. Hopewell FD EMU is a member. Two issues of importance are 1) remedying the diversion of NJ's EMT Training Fund to other purposes, as has happened over the years, to the end that insufficient money exists in the fund today to train new volunteer EMT's or to cover recertification-training costs for current EMT's; and 2) monitoring a bill proposing to redesign Emergency Medical Services in the state (A2463/S1650).

Treasurer's Report:

A copy of the treasurer's report was made available to each commissioner with a list and description of the bills to be paid. The Chief Financial Officer certified that there were sufficient unencumbered funds to pay the bills and designated the account to which each would be charged.

1. Bills were submitted in the amount of \$6,167.93. There was no LOSAP transfer this month.

On a motion made by Cmsr. Reichman and seconded by Cmsr. Anderson, the treasurer's report was accepted and the bills proposed for payment. Payment of the bills passed unanimously on a roll call vote (1 absent).

Fire Department Administration:

The fire department's lender has requested documentation of its income sources. The board discussed a proposed letter confirming the board's long-term relationship with the fire department and its intent to continue providing firehouse and EMS facilities to the community by leasing a portion of the firehouse property (4 Columbia Avenue) to house fire district vehicles, apparatus and equipment., as well as to serve as the fire district's offices, public meeting place and emergency services training facility.

On a motion by Cmsr. Evans and seconded by Cmsr. Anderson, the Chairman and Secretary were authorized to sign the letter on behalf of the board after edits as they felt necessary or advisable, and to submit the document to the president of the fire department.

Ladies' Auxiliary:

1. The auxiliary will host a Pampered Chef party on November 4th as a fundraiser.
2. They will provide prize money and snack bags for participants in the annual Halloween parade to be October 28th.
3. They will host the Mercer County Ladies Auxiliary meeting at the firehouse on November 14th.
4. The auxiliary will purchase a new stove for the firehouse kitchen to replace the broken one.

EMU Report:

1. 36 calls in September – 16 in the borough, 14 in the township, 5 other. 1 scratch call (weekend).
2. The daytime sign-up sheets (duty rosters) are working well in reducing weekday scratch calls.
3. Township EMU chiefs continue to meet to propose changes to the EMU LOSAP point system. It is challenging to create a regional standardized point system given the wide disparity in the number of calls to which each unit responds.
4. The emergency brake on 1522 was repaired.

Fire Chief Report:

1. 29 calls in September – 9 in the borough, 18 in the township, 1 in Pennington Borough, and 1 other.
2. Repairs to the Quint were more than expected and required involvement by the manufacturer's engineering department. Basically, the whole side of the truck, including the hose bed, is being rebuilt due to condensation build-up. All work is being done under warranty.
3. The new Knox boxes for the two trucks will be installed soon.
4. During periodic maintenance it was discovered the engine needed new batteries. The cost will be around \$750-800.
5. The chief's vehicle had new brakes installed as well as other minor repairs made to the transmission and mirrors.
6. Estimates for the two siren controllers necessary to allow the audible nighttime siren for fire calls to be eliminated, and to accommodate tornado warnings, is \$2400, plus \$300 programming, and further installation costs. A total rough estimate is \$5000.
7. The computer for the chief's office will be ordered soon.
8. The freeze on the Cadet program has been lifted; 14 and 15 year-olds will be able to enroll if sponsored by a member. General recruitment efforts are underway, including at the high school.
9. Additional apparatus drivers are needed. The fire department SOG's now require that drivers have FF1 as a prerequisite to qualifying. The fire department intends to amend the SOG's to do away with the FFI requirement, but pump operation classes and certifications will still be necessary. The chief will keep the board apprised.
7. Installation of the radios purchased through the FEMA grant should begin later this month.
8. There was an automobile fire drill held last month. This month there will be a live burn drill.
9. Cmsr. Morehouse will contact the township regarding its right-of-first-refusal on the old tanker. If there is no interest one option is to sell the truck at public auction.

Fire Official Report: On file.

Attorney Report: None.

Committee Reports: None.

Other Business:

SCBA: On a motion by Cmsr. Anderson and seconded by Cmsr. Reichman, Resolution 2012-023 was proposed. The board approved **Resolution 2012-023** rescinding this board's Resolution 2012-20 and authorizing the purchase of SCBA to the vendor awarded the cooperative purchasing contract by the lead agency pursuant to the bids to be opened on October 16, 2012.

Lease with Fire Department: A draft lease agreement was distributed to the board for review and revision. Discussion will continue next month.

New Construction Sprinklers: The chief clarified some aspects of the movement to amend the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code to require the installation of fire sprinkler systems in all newly constructed one and two family dwellings. The requirement would only apply to those houses with no source of water within 200 feet of the dwelling. On a motion by Cmsr. Morehouse and seconded by Cmsr. Reichman, the board tabled action on a Resolution supporting the amendment.

2013 Budget: Cmsr. Morehouse will set up a time for the budget presentation to the township and discussion of final numbers will continue next month.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board, on a motion by Cmsr. Morehouse and seconded by Cmsr. Anderson, the meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.