

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

July 10, 2013

PRESENT: Cmsr. Anderson
Cmsr. Bovenizer
Cmsr. Evans
Cmsr. Morehouse
Cmsr. Myers

Call to Order: The scheduled meeting of the board was called to order by Commissioner Morehouse at 7:36 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 : (June 12, 2013)

On a motion by Cmsr. Myers and seconded by Cmsr. Evans the minutes of the June 12, 2013 meeting were approved as presented. (Cmsrs. Anderson and Bovenizer did not vote on the motion)

Public Comment: None.

Treasurers 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 in the 2013 budget to pay the bills and designated the account to which each would be charged.

The payment to the Hopewell Fire Department Administration should be \$5,000.00 instead of \$8,800.00 as indicated on the list of bills. After amending this entry, the total bills submitted to be paid from the 2013 budget is \$ 21,782.61. The most significant expenditures were for the special services vehicle loan payment, fire department administration and radio equipment.

On a motion by Cmsr. Evans and seconded by Cmsr. Bovenizer, the foregoing bills were presented for payment. Payment was approved on a roll call vote.

Fire Department Administration:

1. Planning Board approval is needed to redesign the curb on the engine bay side of the building so the trucks can make the turn without interference. The Borough Engineer thinks this is feasible.
2. The contractor secured permits for the roof work on the building but failed to get approval from the Historical Committee. The belief was that all approvals were encompassed within the building permit. The process of securing approval of the roof design from the Historical Committee is underway.
3. Heavy rainstorms and wind during the course of re-roofing resulted in significant water damage to the building interior and equipment in the parts of the engine bay, radio room, office and kitchen. Losses are estimated in the \$5000.00 range. The contractor will pay to replace/repair damaged equipment and property.

Ladies' Auxiliary:

1. The next meeting will be September 9, 2013.
2. The historical blankets should be available early in August. They will be displayed in Borough Hall. The cost is \$40.00.

EMU Report:

1. 19 calls in June: 9 Township, 9 Borough, 1 other. 1 scratched call on a Sunday afternoon to which Pennington responded and medical attention was refused.
2. A joint rehabilitation drill with the fire department went well.

Fire Chief Report:

In the chief's absence, Deputy Chief Will Mullen presented the report:

1. 24 calls in June: 14 Township, 5 Borough, 2 Pennington Borough and 3 other. There was one serious auto accident in which the fire department worked with Pennington, and 13 alarm activations.
2. Fireworks – The fire department assisted on the rain date, July 7th.
3. Drills – A valley-wide live burn drill took place at the Dempster Center. This was a good chance to work with the new air packs. The new tanker was used in a water study drill held by East Amwell Twp. and in a drill in Ewing (Station 31) to illustrate drafting techniques in an area without hydrants.
4. East Amwell Fire Protection – The funds that used to come in pursuant to an agreement between the two fire districts apparently have been reallocated by East Amwell. Chairman Morehouse will contact the East Amwell Board regarding the agreement.
5. Tanker - The new tanker is in service. Minor issues with the keyless ignition and the lightbar scene lights are being addressed by the manufacturer, who has been very responsive to the fire department's requests. Wireless headsets should be installed by August. The old tanker will remain in service until it is sold.
6. Tanker Public Auction - The township has no interest in the old tanker. It will be sold on an on-line public auction site sanctioned by the state. The specifics will be addressed next month.
7. Utility Truck - The best technical solution is to replace the engine. Three written quotes were received: Skerdlant's Auto LLC, Washington Crossing, PA \$11,115.61; Ditschman, Flemington, NJ \$13,285.60; and Thompson Motor Service, Pennel, PA \$10,930.87. On a motion by Cmsr. Bovenizer and seconded by Cmsr. Evans Resolution 13-017 was proposed. The board approved **Resolution 13-017** authorizing a contract award to Thompson Motor Service to replace the engine in Utility 52 pursuant to the lowest of three written estimates (\$10,930.87), the total expenditure for the project not to exceed \$12,000.00.

Fire Official Report: On file

Committee Reports: None

Attorney Report: None

Other Business:

- 1 Payment and Renewal of Quint Financing - The board approved **Resolution 13-016** authorizing the annual loan payment (\$56,000.00) and renewal of financing for the Quint (\$103,284.15) through Hopewell Valley Community Bank.
2. LOSAP - Commissioner Myers inquired into whether the township had sent its portion of the 2012 LOSAP funds to the provider. Commissioner Anderson will check on this.
3. Valley Fire Districts Joint Meeting – Commissioner Bovenizer reported on the meeting held in May. His suggestion was to disregard the old long-range planning schedule and begin anew with an eye toward what the

valley needs regionally, and when, and where each apparatus would best be placed. A township commissioner suggested hiring a consulting firm to help determine future equipment needs. The two borough boards' suggested that seasoned valley chiefs and past chiefs who know the call history, challenges and topography of the region could perform the same analysis and make recommendations – at no cost. There is another meeting tentatively scheduled for August.

4. Budget – Chairman Morehouse requested that the budget process for next year move up one month at each step so there is ample time for review before submission deadlines. He asked that the fire department and EMU have plans and preliminary numbers available in August and firm figures by the end of September.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the board, on a motion by Cmsr. Bovenizer and seconded by Cmsr. Evans, the meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on August 14, 2013.