

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

March 14, 2014

Commissioners Anderson and Myers were sworn in for new three-year terms.

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

ABSENT: Cmsr. Bovenizer

Elections and Appointments -

A. Nominations: On a motion by Cmsr. Morehouse and seconded by Cmsrs. Anderson, Evans and Myers, the same board members were nominated to fill the offices they held during 2013.

The following commissioners were elected to hold office until the next annual election:

Chairman – Schuyler Morehouse
Vice-Chairman – Melvin Myers
Secretary – David Anderson
Treasurer – Paul Evans

B. Appointments: The following appointments were made by Chairman Morehouse:

Chief Financial Officer – Paul Evans
LOSAP Administrator – David Anderson
Public Agency Compliance Officer – Mark Bovenizer
Public Records Custodian – David Anderson
Fire Company and EMS Liaison – Mark Bovenizer

On a motion by Cmsr. Myers and seconded by Cmsr. Anderson, Resolution 14-12 was proposed. The board approved **Resolution 14-12** memorializing the designation of the fire district's Public Agency Compliance Officer to serve throughout 2014 and until his successor is appointed.

Minutes: (February 12, 2014)

On a motion made by Cmsr. Anderson and seconded by Cmsr. Myers, the minutes of February 12, 2014, were approved as presented.

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 encumbered funds from the 2013 budget and unencumbered funds in the 2014 budget to pay the bills and designated the account to which each would be charged.

1. Bills were submitted to be paid from the 2013 budget in the amount of \$23,707.79, and from the 2014 budget in the amount of \$26,566.70. The 2013 bills included the principal and interest payment on the tanker loan. The most significant payments from 2014 funds were for insurance. On a motion made by

Cmsr. Myers 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.

2. The final financial reports for 2013 have been sent to the auditor.

Fire Department Administration:

1. Renovations to the chief's office and the administration office are completed.
2. The upstairs has been cleaned and painted. Further renovations will continue as time permits.
3. The cost of installing a smoke/heat/fire alarm system in the building is being investigated.

Ladies' Auxiliary:

1. The auxiliary will host the Mercer County Fire Auxiliary meeting on April 16th at the Baptist Church. It will include a covered dish supper and tricky tray fund raiser.
2. The annual breakfast and plant sale will be held April 13th at the firehouse.
3. The auxiliary prepared and served breakfast and lunch to those participating in the fire department work days. Many thanks to JoAnn Vaccarino for organizing this.
4. The auxiliary donated funds to the fire department for the purchase of a Maltese Cross to be designed and placed outside the firehouse. The donation was presented at the awards dinner.

EMU Report:

1. 31 calls in February: 16 Township, 10 Borough, 1 Pennington Borough, 4 other. No scratch calls.
2. One new member has completed EMT school and a couple others will begin classes soon.

Fire Chief Report:

1. 30 calls in February: 15 Township, 5 Borough, 2 Pennington Borough and 4 other. A large structure fire in East Amwell's district required water drafting from quite a distance – 12 tankers responded. The fire department also responded to the PSE&G gas line explosion in Ewing Township.
2. The chief received and responded to a telephone call from a new resident on Louellen Street regarding the audible sirens.
3. Mercer County has suggested switching to one dispatch channel for all emergency calls. The fire department's position is that the existing regionalized dispatch system is more effective whereby there are three frequencies to encompass the county – one for Princeton/Hopewell/Lawrence/Ewing; one for the Windsors; and one for the Hamilton fire districts. The county does not have a back-up system if central dispatch experiences problems or goes down. At this time Hopewell Township Police provide back-up dispatching for our fire department, however if Hopewell Township was to take over back-up for the entire county it would require major upgrades to its system in order to obtain the required range of coverage.

Fire Official Report: On file

Attorney Report: None

Committee Reports: None

Other Business:

Annual Election and Budget Referendum: The budget passed by a vote of 24 to 0. David Anderson and Melvin Myers were elected (24 votes each) to three-year terms on the board. The results have been certified to the State.

LOSAP: The certified list of volunteers eligible for LOSAP awards for 2013 was presented to the board. It will be posted for thirty days, and if there are no challenges the entire list will be sent to the township so it can make its payment toward the total contribution. 74 members, including nine first-year participants, qualified for awards totaling \$86,128.77.

On a motion by Cmsr. Myers and seconded by Cmsr. Anderson, Resolution 14-13 was proposed. The board approved **Resolution 14-13** accepting the certified LOSAP list for 2013 and authorizing its posting as required by statute.

Insurance: Cmsr. Myers summarized his research into the accident and sickness policy. Discussion will continue on members covered, benefits and costs.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board, on a motion by Cmsr. Anderson, seconded by Cmsr. Morehouse unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on April 9, 2014.