

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

**June 12, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Cmsr. Morehouse  
Cmsr. Davies  
Cmsr. Evans (arrived at 7:35)  
Cmsr. Myers

**ABSENT:** Cmsr. Bovenizer

**Call to Order:** The scheduled meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 7:35pm by Chairman Morehouse following proof of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was given through the Annual Meeting Notice and was filed with the municipal clerk, posted at the municipal building, the board's office, the fire district website, and advertised in the official newspapers of the district as required by law.

**Minutes:**

Minutes for March were postponed due to Commissioner Boveinzer's absence.

Motioned by Commissioner Davies and seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve the meeting minutes from the May 9, 2019 meeting. Motion approved with one absence.

**Public Comment:** Kaitlin Kassel attended the meeting to discuss the siren. She had posted on Facebook her concerns about the siren and it expanded into a lengthy conversation. She came to the meeting to discuss the siren. She apologized for the veracity of the initial post and what it became. She appreciates and respects everything the fire department does in the community and the fire department has also visited her house a few times. Her concern with the siren is she spent many years in Oklahoma, surviving tornados and to her the sirens bring flashbacks of tornados which cause her anxiety. Her baby also has a hard time with the siren and tends to wake up when it goes off. Ms. Kassel's neighbor, Bonnie, who was also present at the meeting stated that she heard the baby crying when the siren goes off and she has almost made mistakes in her job due to lack of sleep from the siren and the crying baby. Deputy Chief Mullen gave an explanation as to why the siren was needed and the steps the fire department has taken to minimize the use of the siren. He explained how there are duty tones for the squad that go off after 7pm which do not activate the siren. There is also a siren control that turns the siren off after 10pm so it does not go off unless there is a structure fire. Ms. Kassel and Bonnie were thanked for their concern and attendance at the meeting, The siren continues to be a problem and

more steps will be considered to minimize the usage. Ms. Kassel stated she wanted to help the fire department with promotions and advertising and will work with Chief Novak.

The report from the 2018 audit was submitted. There were no recommendations or findings reported. It was decided at that time to table the audit until July.

### **Treasurer's Report: 19-22**

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 in the 2019 budget to pay the bills and designated the account to which each would be charged.

1. Bills were submitted to be paid from the 2019 budget in the amount of \$43,119.35 for a total of \$43,119.35.  
Motioned by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Davies to pay the bills as submitted with a roll call vote.
2. The list of encumbrances from the 2019 budget was given to the Board for review.

### **LOSAP-**

The late applications were submitted and the check was released to Lincoln Financial.

### **Hopewell Fire Department Administration:**

The Memorial Day parade went well. Members and their families carried the big flag for the parade. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, members will be cooking provided food for the Gazebo Park reunion from 12p to 2 pm. The public will be allowed to use the restroom for events throughout the summer.

### **Ladies Auxiliary-**

There was no one present to give a report.

### **EMU Chief Report:**

There were 28 calls for the month of May with 2 scratches. One scratched call was during the week and was covered by 159 and the other call was on the weekend and covered by 151. Chief Brown has been in contact with some members regarding a new ambulance and will be organizing a trip to Montgomery to see their new truck.

**Fire Chief Report:**—There were 18 calls for the month of May with 2 residential fires and one water rescue. There was a rollover a few nights prior to the meeting and a good job was done by everyone. A new tire and rim had to be purchased for the Special Services vehicle. The key system upgrade was completed. The brakes went bad on Brush 51 and it was repaired in house. Drivers' ages were discussed and it was mentioned that there has to be non-discretionary standards for driving.

**Insurance-**

No report.

**Legal-**

GovDeals has lost the state contract for auctions. The site can be used but now there are thresholds.

**Resolution 19-23**

It was decided to go ahead with the audit resolution. Once again there were no recommendations and no findings reported.

Motioned by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Davies to approve the resolution accepting the 2018 Financial Audit report.

Motion passed with one absence.

The budget process may have to be accelerated due to the fact the Township Commissioners have their election in November now. Deputy Chief Mullen will discuss the process and the changes with Chief Martin and report back to the Board.

**Fire Official Report:** On file and a copy was provided to the Commissioners.

**Committee Reports**

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the board, on a motion by Cmsr. Evans and seconded by Cmsr. Davies and approved the meeting adjourned at 8:37. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on July 10, 2019.

