

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

December 11, 2019

PRESENT: Cmsr. Morehouse
Cmsr. Bovenizer
Cmsr. Davies
Cmsr. Evans
Csmr. Myers

ABSENT:

Call to Order: The scheduled meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 7:30 pm 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:

Motioned by Commissioner Myers and seconded by Commissioner Davies to approve the meeting minutes from the November 13, 2019 meeting as written. Motion approved with no absences.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Treasurer's Report: 19-35

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 2018 budget and 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 \$66,017.01 for a total of \$66017.01.
Motioned by Commissioner Bovenizer and seconded by Commissioner Evans to pay the bills as submitted with a roll call vote. Commissioner Myers abstained from voting for his bill.
2. The list of encumbrances from the 2019 budget was given to the Board for review.

Resolution 19-33

This resolution was postponed at the November meeting as there were not enough Commissioners present to pass the resolution

Motioned by Commissioner Bovenizer and seconded by Commissioner Myers to pass the resolution approving 12 line transfers in the 2019 budget. Motion passed with no absences.

Hopewell Fire Department Administration:

Ali Myers will be the president for 2020. The fire department welcomed home Michael Toth from Afghanistan. A banner was put up in town and the fire department met him at the train station. Project Santa will be taking place on December 15, 16, and 17.

Ladies Auxiliary-

No report given.

EMU Chief Report:

There were 21 calls in the month of November with 1 scratch. 2 members finished EMT class and are waiting for a test date. Several options were discussed regarding a new ambulance. It was decided to put a referendum on the ballot for the purchase of an ambulance not to exceed \$230,000.

Resolution 19-38

Motioned by Commissioner Bovenizer and seconded by Commissioner Myers to pass the resolution authorizing a referendum on the 2020 ballot requesting funding for a new ambulance in 2021.

Fire Chief Report:—There were 32 calls for the month of November. There was a residential structure fire in Hopewell Borough which was extinguished quickly and there was a vehicle fire in Pennington's area which Hopewell assisted. The residential fire was caused by oily rags so it was suggested to put out a public safety announcement regarding the storage and disposal of oily rags in an effort to prevent fires. New officers were elected for 2020 and will be sworn in at the Hopewell Borough Council meeting on January 2, 2020. A request from Plainsboro Fire Department came in regarding borrowing Engine 52 for two months. There was no objection from the Board with the stipulation that if a company in the Valley needed the Engine it will be returned. The Board left it up to the fire department to work out the details. The fire department is still waiting for the new gear to arrive. There will be swift water training in 2020. ID's will be replaced. Call volume is down in East Amwell. One of the firefighters fell twice on the scene of a fire and went to the ER six days later. It was reported to the insurance company.

Insurance- Commissioner Myers made a presentation regarding insurance for 2020. Workers compensation insurance will be decreasing and the other policies have remained mostly the same.

LOSAP-

The end of year reporting was discussed. The new point of contact for the fire department is Cosmo Tomaro and he will be getting all the information together to submit to the Commissioners as soon as possible.

Resolution 19-36

Motioned by Commissioner Myers and seconded by Commissioner Evans to pass the resolution appointing a PACO officer.

Motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

Resolution 19-37

Motioned by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Bovenizer to pass the resolution authorizing the introduction of the 2020 budget.

Motion passed unanimously with no absences.

Legal-

No report.

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

Committee Reports- None

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board, on a motion by Cmsr. Bovenizer and seconded by Cmsr. Evans approved the meeting adjourned at 8:46. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on January 8, 2020.

