

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

July 8, 2020

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

ABSENT:

Call to Order: The regularly scheduled meeting was conducted remotely by means of a web-based conference call through Google and was called to order by Chairman Morehouse at 7:00 pm, following adequate notice under the Open Public Meetings Law (annual notice published and revised meeting notice published in the Times of Trenton, posted at the Board offices and on the fire district's web site providing information on how the public could access and join the meeting, as well as provided to any person requesting same in advance of the meeting.)

Minutes:

The meeting minutes from June 10, 2020 were amended under the LOSAP category. The meeting minutes should read due to the Covid 19 virus it may be that only active members who participate in fire and EMU calls will qualify for LOSAP for the year 2020.

Motioned by Commissioner Bovenizer and seconded by Commissioner Davies to approve the meeting minutes from the June 10, 2020 meeting as amended. Motion approved with no absences.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Treasurer's Report: 20-23

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 2020 regular budget to pay the bills and designated the account to which each would be charged.

1. Bills were submitted to be paid from the 2020 regular budget in the amount of \$40,433.66

Motioned by Commissioner Myers and seconded by Commissioner Bovenizer to pay the bills as submitted with a roll call vote.

2. The list of encumbrances from the 2020 regular budget was given to the Board for review.

Hopewell Fire Department Administration:

On June 19th the building will be opening up and that will allow more people to be in the building. Social distancing and mask wearing will be required. The monthly meetings continue to be held online. The gym in the firehouse will remain closed and locked. Signs are posted throughout the building reminding people to socially distance, wear a mask and wash their hands. It is also noted if any member is not feeling well to stay home.

Ladies Auxiliary-

There was no one present to give a report.

EMU Chief Report:

There were 26 calls for June with 3 scratches. Prior to the meeting, Chief Brown met with a vendor for the ambulance from Houston-Galveston Area Council regarding pricing. It was determined that the Hopewell Borough Board of Fire Commissioners needs to be on the application for state licensure as well as on the lettering on the ambulance.

Fire Chief Report:—There were 25 calls for the month of June. Pump testing is complete; however, the Tanker and Quint have to be retested. The fire department started doing outdoor drills again and the first one was pumping and drafting water. There is a stabilization and JAWS drill planned in the upcoming weeks. Some new by laws were presented to the fire department members. One change is to lower the amount of years to achieve life member status from 25 years to 20 years. Another change is adding a retirement status after 15 years of active service. Also, any president or chief will always be considered a member of the department. Each of these bylaw changes have to be read at 3 separate meetings before being voted on for approval. There needs to be a Junior release for participating juniors due to the Covid 19 virus. The form must be signed by a parent and include what risks may be involved with being a Junior member at this time.

The first restitution check was received from the State regarding the fuel problem. Chief Mullen is working on getting money from FEMA for the Covid 19 virus spending.

Chairman Chipowsky and Commissioner Cseremsak of the Hopewell Township Board of Fire Commissioners resigned. Cosmo Tomaro and Bryan Malkiewicz were appointed to the Board. In November, 4 of the Township Commissioners will be up for re-election.

Budget—Commissioner Bovenizer emailed the budget spreadsheet to the Commissioners and Chiefs. He will get together with the Chiefs and come up with a rough budget number for the August meeting.

Insurance-

Commissioner Myers is going to check with the insurance companies to see if they have any projections of what insurance may cost in 2021.

LOSAP

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. Evans and seconded by Cmsr. Davies and approved the meeting adjourned at 8:30. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on August 12, 2020 via Google.