

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

July 14, 2021

PRESENT: Cmsr. Morehouse
Cmsr. Bovenizer (attended via Google Meet)
Cmsr. Davies
Csmr. Evans (arrived at 7:23)
Cmsr. Myers

ABSENT:

Call to Order: The regularly scheduled meeting was conducted both in person and remotely by means of a web-based conference call through Google and was called to order by Chairman Morehouse at 7:00, following adequate notice under the Open Public Meetings Law (annual notice published and revised meeting notice published in the Times of Trenton and transmitted to the Hopewell Valley News provided to the Borough Clerk for posting, 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:

On a motion by Commissioner Myers and seconded by Commissioner Davies the June 9, 2021 minutes were approved with one absence.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Treasurer's Report: 21-33

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 2021 budget to pay the bills and designated the account to which each would be charged.

1. Bills were submitted to be paid from the 2021 budget in the amount of \$16,523.08.
2. Motioned by Commissioner Bovenizer and seconded by Commissioner Davies to pay the bills as submitted with a roll call vote.

3. The list of encumbrances from the 2021 budget was given to the Board for review.

Hopewell Fire Department Administration:

The meeting in July was conducted in person.

Ladies Auxiliary-

The Ladies Auxiliary are on summer vacation.

EMU Chief Report:--There were 35 calls for the month of June with 2 scratches. Morale is good and members are back to taking vacations here and there. SOP's have been submitted to the membership for their review. There will be a period of review and revision before they are finalized and submitted to the Commissioners for approval. At the Board of Fire Commissioner meeting there will be a resolution to accept the new SOP's.

Fire Chief Report:—There were 24 calls in the month of June. There was a train incident which killed one person. The train was 2 miles long with 6 locomotives. Luckily the conductor did not hit the emergency break so it did not derail. The patient was hit on the tracks by Titus Mill and the train stopped at Stony Brook. Ladder and aerial testing was completed. The fire company is in the process of moving items off of the Engine. Trenton Water Works had a pressure problem but it did not affect Hopewell. The Relief Association raised the age to 57 for acceptance into the program. Commissioner Tackacs resigned from the Hopewell Township Board of Fire Commissioners so there is an opening on the Board for interested township citizens. 1 member graduated from Firefighter 1 school. The open house conducted in June resulted with 1 senior member and several juniors joining the fire company. Pagers will be purchased soon. Staffing issues were discussed. It was suggested to ask Chief Martin if his employees stationed at the firehouse could switch their hours to better suit the needs of the department. Perhaps the addition of a third person would help the problem. Further talks will be conducted with Hopewell Township.

Engine 52 is still broken but can now be moved. It does not have a pump. Hopewell Township Board of Fire Commissioners have to formally reject the offer of buying the Engine and as soon as that happens the Engine can be posted on Municibid.

Tanker 52's tank has failed. It has been sent to several different companies for assessment and everyone mostly agrees the tank needs repair or replacement. The company that manufactured the tank, Integra went out of business due to the pandemic so the warranty for the tank is null. Given the choice to repair or replace the tank, the professional opinion is to replace the tank. From the informal quotes obtained by Chief Mullen the cost could be anywhere from \$30,000 to \$75,000. The company that built the truck, Sutphen, projected a price of approximately \$35,000 including the tank which will be from a company called ARP, and installation. Sutphen will provide paint, parts and labor at cost. The tanker is an essential piece of equipment in the emergency response fleet and is instrumental in providing needed resources to fight fires in the many areas without hydrants. It was decided to do an

emergency appropriation to purchase the tank and have it installed and the truck back in service as quickly as possible.

Resolution 21-34

Motioned by Commissioner Bovenizer and seconded by Commissioner Davies to approve the resolution authorizing emergency apparatus repair appropriation.

Motion passed with no absences.

Resolution 21-35

Motioned by Commissioner Bovenizer and seconded by Commissioner Davies to give Chief Mullen the authority to spend up to \$45,000 for the replacement and installation for a new tank for Tanker 52.

Motion passed with no absences.

\$15,519 will come out of Emergency Appropriations and the balance will come out of Fire Vehicle repair and maintenance accounts.

Insurance-

No report

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

Committee Reports

LOSAP The return of non-vested money from member's LOSAP accounts was discussed. In order to preserve LOSAP program continuity throughout the valley fire districts, it was discussed to check to see if Hopewell Township's Board has a policy regarding recouping non-vested monies held in accounts for inactive members. Commissioner Davies will work on this and propose a procedure for the Board to consider.

SCBA's were discussed. The packs are starting to fall apart and must be replaced soon. The tanks are due for replacement in 2027. It has been discussed to cooperatively purchase the packs valley wide. It was suggested to replace the packs and the tanks separately.

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 9:13. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on August 11, 2021.

