

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

**June 9, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Cmsr. Morehouse  
Cmsr. Bovenizer (attended via Google Meet)  
Cmsr. Davies  
Csmr. Evans  
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 Bovenizer and seconded by Commissioner Myers the May 12, 2021 minutes were approved with one abstention.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Treasurer's Report: 21-28**

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 \$23,576.29.
2. Motioned by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Bovenizer 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 Memorial Day parade was cancelled due to weather. Masks are now optional in the firehouse and there will be no more virtual meetings.

#### **Ladies Auxiliary-**

There was no one present to give a report.

**EMU Chief Report:**--There were 22 calls for the month of May with 3 scratches which were during the weekdays. The SOP's are completed and will be emailed to the Fire Commissioners for their review. 3 people recertified their EMT certification. Morale is good, crews are responding during the nights and weekends and the vehicles are in good working order.

**Fire Chief Report:**—There were 23 calls in the month of May with 10 in Hopewell Township and 6 in Hopewell Borough. Most of the calls were fire alarms with 1 fire in Lambertville. On Friday June 4<sup>th</sup> the Executive Order was lifted by the governor due to the infection rate being at .74. The parade was cancelled but the department picnic was well attended. There was a membership drive on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Several junior members joined and 1 senior member joined. The fireworks will take place on June 27<sup>th</sup> at Woolsey Park and the Brush truck will be on display for the car show. Engine 52 is out of service. The mechanic thinks it may be a problem with the fuel injector, and there is also a major issue with the transfer case on the pump. The estimated cost on repairs is approximately \$21,000 to fix. As it is 31 years old it has to be decided upon whether or not to fix it. The fire department does not want to put any money into the truck. It was suggested to put it back on the Valley wide replacement plan. It was also discussed that perhaps a replacement truck could be purchased, or an offer could be made on Engine 51 or a replaced engine from Lawrence Township. It was discussed as to if Engine 52 was a critical piece of apparatus. Tanker 52 is also out of services. The driver side of the tank has a bulge in it and the company that provided the tank portion of the truck went out of business due to COVID which voids the lifetime guarantee of the tank. It was determined that the baffles separated from the truck and have to be welded back together. Chief Mullen is trying to find a company willing to perform the welding. The truck is currently empty and if there is a confirmed fire it will be filled and used. There is also a paint problem with the truck which is out of warranty.

#### **Resolution 21-29**

Motioned by Commissioner Myers and seconded by Commissioner Evans to approve the resolution approving Mistras Asset Protection Solutions to perform annual testing.

Motion passed with no absences.

#### **Resolution 21-30**

Motioned by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Davies to approve spending up to \$10,000 to repair the Tanker.

Motion passed with no absences.

#### **Resolution 21-31**

Motioned by Chairman Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve up to \$2500.00 to repair Engine 52 to the point of it being drivable.

Motion passed with no absences.

#### **Resolution 21-32**

Motioned by Chairman Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Evans to authorize advertisement and placement of the Engine on Muncibid if Hopewell Township Board of Fire Commissioners decline the Engine.

Motion passed with no absences.

Legal- Attorney Griswold has talked to a local lawyer to see if he had any interest in taking over for her in the next year.

Motioned by Chairman Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Bovenizer to advertise for the next 3 months a hybrid meeting both on Google Meet and in person. Motion passed with no absences.

#### **Insurance-**

No report

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

#### **Committee Reports**

**LOSAP** No report.

The siren was discussed. Some complaints have come in recently regarding the siren. Many people posted on a discussion board on the Pennington Hopewell Update page on Facebook. The siren belongs to the Fire Department not the Commissioners. The meeting was opened up to public discussion. Jason Read of the 300 block of Route 31, also a member, commented that the siren has been around for decades. If not for the siren he would not have been able to respond to calls. It lets the Borough residents know that there is an emergency in town and many people and emergency vehicles will be actively moving within the Borough. There are many things that can go wrong with technology such as batteries running out on the pager, servers going down and phones not being heard. There are new kinds of sirens which are more programmable and quieter. A Survey Monkey was sent out to the members as to whether or not to keep the siren and 40 responses were obtained. Only 1 person said they did not want the siren. This discussion will continue at upcoming meetings.

**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 July 14, 2021.