

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

March 10, 2021

PRESENT: Cmsr Morehouse

Cmsr. Bovenizer

Cmsr. Davies

Cmsr. Evans

Cmsr. Myers

ABSENT : None

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, 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, at the firehouse entrances 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

Motioned by Commissioner Davies and seconded by Commissioner Bovenizer to approve the meeting minutes from the February 10, 2021 meeting as printed. Motion passed with one abstention.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Treasurer's Report: 21-17

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

1. Bills were submitted to be paid for the 2021 temporary budget in the amount of \$24,185.49
Motioned by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Bovenizer.

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

Hopewell Fire Administration Report:

There will be a soft opening for the building in April. The monthly meeting will be a hybrid meeting, both virtual and in person. The Memorial Day parade and how to conduct it safely is being discussed.

Ladies Auxiliary:

There was no one present to give a report.

EMU Chief Report: There were 24 calls for the month of February with 3 scratches. One of the scratched calls was covered by Pennington First Aid Squad and the other two were covered by Hopewell Valley Emergency Services. One member has started to ride again. The state licensing application is not complete yet, however there are several people working on it. There is an EMS chief's meeting on March 15th to discuss multiple issues.

Fire Chief Report: There were 12 calls for the month of February. The fire department helped East Amwell in extinguishing a shed fire. The fire company participated in a drive by birthday celebration for a resident of town turning 100. The building will be opening up in the coming weeks. Covid protocol will still be in place but the health questionnaire will no longer be required to enter the building. The funeral for member JJ Vandewater was well attended and his family will be receiving a death benefit from the State Relief Association. A Covid clinic was conducted at Hopewell Elementary School and the ambulance had a crew to standby. There is one member in Firefighter 1 class. The annual Polar Bear Plunge was canceled this year due to Covid but the fire department is going to participate in a mini plunge wetting down the participants as they do for Field Day at the elementary school. There will be a live burn in April and CPR refresher will be conducted shortly. In lieu of spending money for a train the trainer class, more props will be purchased for training. There are several new construction projects in the works for the Township which will affect the fire department. The Fire Official is pushing for the addition of residential sprinklers for the new construction.

Resolution 21-18

Motioned by Commissioner Bovenizer and seconded by Commissioner Evans to pass the resolution adopting remote public meeting procedures. Motion passed with no absences

It was discussed whether the platform the Commissioner's use has a "raise your hand" function and it is well within the rights for the Commissioners to be able to mute or ask a person to leave who is causing a ruckus or a problem.

Resolution 21-19

Motioned by Commissioner Bovenizer and seconded by Commissioner Davies to pass the resolution amending the annual notice of meetings and including the virtual meeting rules. Motion passed with no absences.

Insurance:

The workers compensation audit has been completed and the Fire District will most likely be getting a refund.

LOSAP:

The LOSAP report for 2020 was received by Commissioner Davies. The Director of Local Government Services calculated a 2.6% increase in LOSAP from the CPI and this issue was discussed. It was decided that the Commissioners would approve the increase for the year. There are 52 eligible members to receive funds for 2020.

Resolution 21-20

Motioned by Commissioner Davies and seconded by Commissioner Bovenizer authorizing a Consumer Price Index increase to the eligible members of the Hopewell Volunteer Fire Department and Emergency Medical Unit in the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) for the year 2020. Motion passed with no absences.

Resolution 21-21

Motioned by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Myers to accept the list of certified eligible members for the 2020 LOSAP program and post it for 30 days.

Motion passed 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 Commissioner Bovenizer and seconded by Commissioner Davies approved the meeting adjourned at 8:32. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on April 14, 2021 via Google Meeting.