

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

February 9, 2022

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

ABSENT:

Call to Order The regularly scheduled meeting was conducted remotely by means of a hybrid conference call through Google and in person 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 Evans and seconded by Commissioner Myers the January 12, 2022 minutes were approved with no absences.

Resolution 22-13

Motioned by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve the resolution authorizing the payment of the tanker.

Motion passed with no absences.

Resolution 22-14

Motioned by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve the resolution authorizing payment of the rescue truck.

Motion passed with no absences.

Treasurer's Report: 22-15

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 previously certified that there were sufficient encumbered funds in the 2021 budget and the 2022 temporary and 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 2021 encumbered budget of \$63,744.39 and the 2022 temporary and regular budget of \$90, 838.23 including an insurance payment on 1/31/22 of \$10,640.00 for a total of \$154,582.62. Motioned by Commissioner Davies and seconded by Commissioner Evans to pay the bills as submitted with a roll call vote.
2. The list of encumbrances from the 2021 budget and the 2022 temporary and regular budget was given to the Board for review.

Public Comment: There was no public comment. Commissioner Blasi asked several questions regarding past meetings and his questions were answered.

Hopewell Fire Department Administration:

The Juniors had a fundraising event in which they earned \$1030.00. The fundraiser was selling flowers and chocolates to be delivered to nursing homes in the area on Valentine's Day. The dinner dance will most likely be held later on in the year when it gets warmer and can be held at an outside venue. A list is being generated of items that need to be fixed around the building.

Ladies Auxiliary-

There was no one present to give a report.

EMU Chief Report:--There were 21 calls for January with 8 scratches all during the day. Training has been well attended and members were going to be sent to the high school to recruit new members. Five members are going through an American Heart Association training in order to be CPR instructors. Chief Tunison is continuing to work towards state certification. One member returned from military duty and one member returned from medical leave.

Fire Chief Report:—There were 31 fire calls for January. The Tanker is back in station. Four members went to Ice Rescue training and members participated in forced entry training. There is an upcoming drill on Officer Seat Responsibilities. There was an issue with the Rescue and Tankers engines but was resolved. Morale is getting better within the department. Chief Galatro solicited three quotes for preventative maintenance for the trucks for the year. ESS submitted a quote of \$5800, Fire Apparatus Repair submitted a quote of \$4160 and Four Lanes End submitted a quote of \$3269. It was decided to go with Four Lanes End. Chief Galatro is still working on getting quotes for software to replace Firehouse Software. It was mentioned that Engine 52 is missed and perhaps in the future it could be replaced as it was used for several different kinds of calls for service. The Fire Department is looking for a vehicle to replace Car 152.

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

Committee Reports

LOSAP

The Fire Department is putting together the 2021 LOSAP numbers and will get them to Commissioner Davies as soon as possible. There have been several conversations about recouping funds from non-vested members. There have been some disagreements about what the law says about vested members vs non vested. Attorney Griswold is passing the issue along to Attorney Acker. The Fire Department, EMU and Attorney Acker will get together to come up with a definition of a vested member.

Attorney Report:

The SOP's are being dealt with by the Fire Department and the attorneys.

Resolution 22-16

Motioned by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Davies to approve a resolution authorizing and amending insurance premium installment payments between meetings. Motion passed with no absences.

Resolution 22-17

Motioned by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve the resolution appointing a Public Agency Compliance Officer. Motion passed with no absences.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board, on a motion by Cmsr. Evans and seconded by Cmsr. Davies approved the meeting adjourned at 8:38. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on March 9, 2022 via Google Meet and in person.

