

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

March 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 Myers and seconded by Commissioner Evans the February 9, 2022 minutes were approved with no absences.

Public Comment- None

Resolution 22-18

Motioned by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve the resolution authorizing a truck preventative maintenance company.

Motion passed with no absences.

Treasurer's Report: 22-19

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 2022 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 2022 regular budget of \$27,014.79 for a total of \$27,014.79. Motioned by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Myers to pay the bills as submitted with a roll call vote.
2. The list of encumbrances 2022 regular budget was given to the Board for review.

Hopewell Fire Department Administration:

The Fire Department was a collection site for donations for Ukrainian Humanitarian Drive. 9 truckloads and several trailers of items were donated to the cause. Many members of the fire department contributed to the effort. The annual pancake breakfast will be held April 10th, 2022. The Ladies Auxiliary will not be having a flower sale that day.

Ladies Auxiliary-

There was no one present to give a report.

EMU Chief Report:--There were 27 calls for February with 7 scratches which all took place during the day. There are several training opportunities coming in the upcoming months. A member received there EMT certification the day of the meeting and there are 2 members in EMT class. Ambulance 152-1 is out of service due to a vibration when driving. Engineer Brown will be taking the truck down to Mercer Springs in Hamilton to get it fixed. A gift was received from the Smith Foundation in the amount of \$30,000. The money will be going towards the purchase of a power stretcher and a replacement car. Scratches during the day are a worry especially with the new PILOT programs being planned in the township. Chairman Morehouse had a meeting with Chairman Burd of the Hopewell Township Board of Fire Commissioners regarding the uptick in scratches and mutual aid and the effect the PILOT construction will have on the Valley's Emergency Services. In addition, there will be a letter generated by the Township Board addressing the mutual aid problem with Ewing as that also effects the Valley's Emergency Services. Chief Tunison is still working on state certification.

Fire Chief Report:—There were 19 calls for February. Chief Galatro reported that Firehouse Software has been purchased by a ESO and they will no longer support Firehouse Software forcing the fire department to find new reporting and tracking software. Chief Galatro requested quotes from 3 companies. The quotes came back as follows: ESO \$6430.00, EZ Fire at \$7074.00 and ProPhoenix at \$32,000. Chief Galatro recommended going with ESO as they will provide reporting and truck check access. It was decided to go with ESO. The Rescue truck was temporarily fixed and it is still under warranty so there may not be a bill for the repair. The Quint had a battery issue regarding the charger and a quote was solicited for a new battery charger. 3 members are in Firefighter 1 class. Morale throughout the company is improving. Training has been well attended. Replacement of the Engine was discussed. It was discussed to maybe go to referendum in 2024 for purchase in 2025 but further discussion will have to occur. Chief 53 has approached the other Valley Chiefs to change the response for Engine 50 and it was suggested to have a meeting regarding fire response in the Valley.

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

Committee Reports

Insurance:

The workers compensation audit was completed and the Fire District will be getting some money back.

LOSAP

The Fire Department, Commissioner Davies, and Attorney Acker had a meeting to come to a decision about the definition of vesting. It was decided that vesting is defined as 5 deposits into a LOSAP account. The Fire Department By Laws committee stated LOSAP is a commissioner run program so the by laws do not need to be changed. A resolution will be made for the next meeting memorializing the decision. A letter will be written and sent to all members who are non-vested and whose money will be recouped.

Attorney Report:

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

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board, on a motion by Cmsr. Evans and seconded by Cmsr. Myers approved the meeting adjourned at 8:25. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on April 13, 2022 via Google Meet and in person.

