

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

March 8, 2023

PRESENT: Cmsr. Morehouse
Cmsr. Davies
Cmsr. Blasi

Call to Order: The scheduled meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairman Morehouse following proof of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was given through the Annual Meeting Notice and was filed with the municipal clerk, posted at the municipal building, the board's office, the fire district website, and advertised in the official newspapers of the District as required by law.

Minutes:

Commissioners reviewed minutes. Motion by Blasi, 2nd by Davies, all in favor approving February minutes.

Public Comment: None present

Treasurer's Report:

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 funds in the encumbered 2022 budget and the 2023 budget to pay the bills and designated the account to which each would be charged.

Bills were submitted to be paid from the 2022 budget in the amount of \$30,247.09 and \$28,440.71 from 2023 budget. Motioned by Commissioner Davies and seconded by Commissioner Blasi to pay the bills as submitted with a roll call vote all in the affirmative passing via majority. Resolution 2023-21 roll call vote 3-0 motion carries.

Commissioners would like to see a 2022 budget report separately from the current 2023 report at the next meeting. There was some misconception about the Twp EMS payment, but it would not populate on the expense report, and when calculated the totals were correct.

Fire Department Administration:

Dinner dance went well, breakfast was moved to 5/7 due to lack of members availability.

Ladies Aux: No report

EMU Report:

Chief Read advised 26 calls for the month, will be discussing ems operations at the Twp Fire BoFC meeting. They are still working on the agreement with CHS. Ewing, Trenton, Lawrence still will be pulling our services from area, however expected to only be priority one ALS calls. Was able to recruit one 151 member at the last meeting. Have 2 in EMT school, and 2 more in EMT school that want to join, plus junior members. Touched on Squad 151 and how they are liquidating assets.

Fire Chief Report:

17 calls reported for fire last month. Moving forward with Four lanes as he came in the cheapest once again. 2 other vendors bid, they are on file. Fluid changes are being done this month. Brush truck out of service, doing a bunch of upgrades while it is offline. Water rescue equipt has been ordered, about 11 people certified. SOG approved by Chief. Working with M. Bovenizer to start selling older power equipt that was replaced by the Milwaukee purchase. New truck- waiting to speak with committee to see if they want to move forward with buying a new truck or save money for 2027 replacement of Quint. Chief Galatro does not believe that we need an engine at the moment, and would like to save the money for Quint. States about \$900,000 to replace engine today.

Fire Official Report: on file

Attorney Report: Working with Erick Burd from HTBoFC ref EMS and CHS. Will speak during closed session.

Committee Reports:

LOSAP – worked out utilizing the entire funding of the losap line dispersed amongst the entire group of qualified members. Resolution 2023-20 moved by Commissioner Davies, 2nd by Commissioner Blasi. Roll call vote 3-0, motion carries.

Resolution 2023-22 appointing a vendor for fire apparatus repair, Four Lanes, motion by Commissioner Davies, 2nd by Commissioner Blasi, roll call vote 3-0, motion carries.

Workers Comp insurance audit underway, working with Amtrust. Will discuss more next month about insurance coverage and costs on whether moving to a JIF is worth savings. New developments discussed, expect increase in call volume. Chief Read advises the Department has been accepted into a litter pickup program along Rt 31 between Rt 518 and Rt 612. Signage will be provided and will need to assemble crews twice a year for litter patrol. Would like to explore running ads in college newspapers to generate interest in membership. FEMA reimbursement has been approved in the amount of \$8,600 to recover expenses paid in the 2020 budget.

Resolution 2023-23 add clerk to bank account for bookkeeping moved by Commissioner Blasi, 2nd by Commissioner Davies, roll call vote 3-0, motion carries.

Resolution 2023-24 closed executive session, moved by Commissioner Blasi, 2nd by Commissioner Davies. Roll call 3-0 motion carries. Entered into closed session at 8:12 pm. Returned to public session at 8:40 pm.

*Closed session minutes are not for public release at this time.

Public Comment (non-agenda): No public in attendance to comment.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board, on a motion by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Davies unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on April 12, 2023.