**MEETING MINUTES**

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

**HOPEWELL BOROUGH DISTRICT NO.1**

**August 9, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Cmsr. Myers Cmsr. Evans

Cmsr. Davies Cmsr. Blasi

**Call to Order:**  The scheduled meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 7:04 pm by Secretary Davies 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 Myers, 2nd by Blasi, all in favor approving July minutes.

**Public Comment:** None

**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 2023 budget to pay the bills and designated the account to which each would be charged.

Bills were submitted to be paid in the amount of $46,224.11 from 2023 budget. Motioned by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Myers to pay the bills as submitted with a roll call vote all in the affirmative passing via majority. Resolution 2023-37 roll call vote 4-0 motion carries.

**Fire Department Administration:**

Key system being replaced with new system to include cameras. Lightning strike is slowly being addressed. Insurance is being

**Ladies Aux:**  None

**EMU Report:**

Chief Read advised 48 calls for the month. Updated AEDs with new pads and batteries. Received a $24,000 grant for a new mechanical CPR machine, as well as an additional AED. Ordered polo shirts for department personnel. Spoke with President of Amwell Valley Rescue who states they wanted to give us $50 a call for each one we handled for them. Chief Read nominated John Novak for a Pioneer Award. Discussed at length Amwell Valley responses and implications it may have on availability of an ambulance for Hopewell Valley. Discussion led to the creation of either a shared services agreement or MOU. Discussed the difference between a cancelled call and a scratch. A scratched call is where the ambulance does not respond within 10 minutes of dispatch. A cancelled call is when the ambulance is cancelled whether they leave the station or not, and there is no patient contact. Sending an ambulance to the Hunterdon County Fair for an EMS standby. Secretary Davies asked Chief Read where the EMS Certification stood and was advised it was still in process. Commissioner Davies advised that we must move forward with getting the application approved.

**Fire Chief Report**:

36 calls reported for fire last month. Swiftwater team is progressing well. Asked for permission to purchase a boat, motor and trailer. Will bring quotes to next meeting, for purchase. The Ford Expedition is at its end of life, will ask the Twp Board about the first right of refusal. Drills are being done for SCBA certification. Chief Read pointed out that there are 21% of fire calls are mutual aid compared to 9% of EMS mutual aid provided.

**Fire Official Report:** on file

**Attorney Report:** n/a

**Committee Reports**: LOSAP – 44 checks came in from closing unvested accounts totaling $158, will reach out to the Township to see if they want to be reimbursed 70%.

**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 Davies and seconded by Commissioner Evans, unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on October 11, 2023.