

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

June 14, 2023

PRESENT: Cmsr. Morehouse 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 7:05 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 Davies, 2nd by Myers, all in favor approving May 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 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 \$3,229.71 and \$49,100.79 from 2023 budget. Budget year 2022 is now closed. Motioned by Commissioner Blasi and seconded by Commissioner Davies to pay the bills as submitted with a roll call vote all in the affirmative passing via majority. Resolution 2023-33 roll call vote 5-0 motion carries.

Fire Department Administration:

Concerts in the park are starting FD will be selling food. Ongoing building maintenance being performed, was able to collect additional clothing for emergency events. Siren is back in service. Memorial Day parade was another success.

Ladies Aux: None

EMU Report:

Chief Read advised 42 calls for the month, EMS week was successful with small parties and donations for members. Looking to destroy old call sheets in storage. Electronic copies will remain on file. PFAS was

very appreciative of our recognition of their organization during the parade. Currently have 42 EMTs total. 37 EMTs still respond, about 3.4 responders for 193 calls YTD with 15 scratches. Last year total up to end of June 2022 was 185 calls with 43 scratches. Chief Read spoke about how calls are up and scratches are down. Looking to Pennington Boro for a possible contribution. Possibly adding more EMTs due to retirements. On 5/24/1991 Commissioner Mel Myers became an EMT now 32 years for over 2000 calls. Was brought up at a previous meeting about a first responder vehicle. Asking the Commissioner if they would be willing to purchase. Insurance paid out to the Dept about \$12,400 for the totaled Ford Explorer. Commissioner Morehouse states that typically the Department purchases the vehicle, and the Board will pay for the upfitting of the vehicle. (lights, siren, console, graphics) Expect to budget about \$10,000 for upfit. Working on getting a quote from East Coast who is a NJ State contract holder.

Fire Chief Report:

17 calls reported for fire last month. Quint 52 is still out of service, mechanic is waiting on \$9,200 in parts, unknown amount of labor costs. Pump airline broke, which caused the clutch pack to fuse itself to the power take off, therefore the pump cannot disconnect itself and kept running. Possibility of a \$15-20k repair cost. Commissioner Morehouse asked Cmsr. Myers to inquire with the insurance company if a catastrophic repair would be covered under the insurance policy. Commissioner Morehouse asked Chief Galatro to look into purchasing spare parts for the truck as it is getting older and the parts can become sparse for future repairs. Looking to quote out annual testing, ladders, pumps, hose testing and ground ladder testing.

Resolution 2023-34 Awarding contract to Waterway Testing for 2023 annual testing in the amount of \$3,751.25. (Lowest bid) Motion made by Commissioner Blasi, 2nd by Evans, motion passes 5-0.

Chief Galatro would like to auction off surplus equipment. Will have to put up on Municibid with a reserve price point. Chairman Morehouse will speak with Mark Bovenizer for help listing items.

Resolution 2023-35 To Auction Off Surplus Equipment with estimated value of \$39,320 value to auction via State approved platform. Motion made by Commissioner Myers, 2nd by Evans, motion passes 5-0.

Will be starting Valley wide Chief's meetings again late summer/fall.

Fire Official Report: on file

Attorney Report: Discussed OPRA request – denied no record exists wrong agency

Committee Reports: Insurance – Car accident involving a senior and junior member. One went to ER by ambulance. Billed for over \$10k in services, should fall under auto policy not workers comp. Do not allow members to use personal vehicles for Department activities.

Commissioner Morehouse would like to see a resolution prepared for the next meeting, to move on the purchase of a new Utility truck. Chief Galatro acknowledged he would provide the information required.

Audit update – has been completed, advised that the utility cannot be purchased without local referendum and added to the 2024 budget. The fuel line from 2022, went over budget by \$5,800, mainly due to the gasoline purchases, vendor now needs to fill out paperwork for pay to play due to eclipsing the \$17,500 ceiling. Commissioner Blasi requested the fire and emu fuel expenses be separated to analyze costs. Dumpster fee reimbursements shall be credited back to the janitorial line as to not go over budget. All encumbered purchase orders shall only cover December expenses.

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 Blasi, unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on July 12, 2023.