

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

October 11, 2023

PRESENT: Cmsr. Myers Chair 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 Myers, 2nd by Blasi, all in favor approving September minutes, whereas Chairman Morehouse abstained due to his absence.

Public Comment:

Treasurer's Report:

Chairman Morehouse inquired about the alarm system noted in the September minutes. Deputy Chief Fenton made a recommendation to the Board to see if they could install a fire alarm system in order for members to be able to bunk at the station. Currently the Board will entertain the costs associated if they can cover it with current budget funding.

Resolution 2023-41 Final Tanker payment was read and discussed by Board members, motioned by Myers, 2nd by Blasi, all in favor 4-0 motion passed.

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 Clerk 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 \$47,344.74 from 2023 budget. 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 2023-42 roll call vote 4-0 motion carries.

Fire Department Administration:

Valley wide picnic held for all FDs. Flag football game PD vs FD on 10/14, Dept will be cooking at Harvest Fair, will be hosting the Halloween Parade on 10/29.

Ladies Aux: None

EMU Report:

Chief Read advised 61 calls for the month. Bunk room project proposed to add sprinkler system to allow members to stay at the station while riding on duty. Having issues with receiving hospitals and delays with patient care. Looking to interest kids who are from local schools who may require community service hours. As of now 14 new members. Juniors won a tri-county competition taking 1st, 1st, and 2nd place trophies. Chief Springer mentioned he needed \$11,500 for a fire alarm system with the membership running the wiring required. Chief Read reports a neighboring dept needs assistance with covering a public event, offered to donate \$750 for the day, but would not go without having a standby crew in quarters. It was mentioned Chief Read was the featured speaker at the HV 9/11 Memorial. Discussion about donating old expired supplies to Israeli conflict.

Fire Chief Report:

32 calls reported for fire last month. All equipment is in service. Making room in station for the boat and trailer arrival. Will attempt to get 2 more quotes for the fire alarm system. Sold the deputy chiefs car for \$1300 during the online auction. The 5" hose was donated to Station 53 for their reserve engine, as well as a few air packs are on loan that are left over from Engine 52.

Fire Official Report: on file

Attorney Report: n/a

Committee Reports: Resolution 2023-44 additional SOPs motion by Commissioner Davies, 2nd by Blasi, all in favor, motion passed 4-0.

Board reviewed the 2022 audit and a motion was made by Cmsr. Blasi, 2nd by Myers to approve Resolution 2023-43. All Commissioners present signed off on the Resolution, and the clerk will upload in FAST.

2024 Budget – Several discussions on budget lines and decreasing/increasing amounts. Budget was approved to send to the Township Board with a 2.842% increase to be offset by reserve funds.

Public Comment (non-agenda): Question came up as to the donations with EMS. As the check was written to the FD not the BoFC. Past Commissioner Bovenizer mentioned that was a grey area considering how Project Santa works and Commissioner Morehouse states pool fills use Commissioner resources but the FD receives the funds. Commissioner Blasi mentioned that there was a 192% increase in mutual aid for EMS dispatches, whereas 64% increase for Fire mutual aid so far this year.

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 9:34 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on November 8, 2023.