

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

**February 14, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Cmsr. Morehouse  
Cmsr. Evans arrived at 19:27  
Cmsr. Davies  
Cmsr. Blasi

**Call to Order:** The scheduled meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 7:03 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 January minutes and with a motion by Commissioner Evans and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Blasi the motion passes 4-0 with all in favor.

**Public Comment:** Chairman Morehouse introduced Council member Sherri Hook who was in attendance.

**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 2023 budget and the 2024 budget to pay the bills and designated the account to which each would be charged.

Bills were submitted to be paid from the 2023 budget in the amount of \$9,333.52 and \$91,141.06 from 2024 budget for a total of \$100,474.58. Motioned by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Blasi to pay the bills as submitted with a roll call vote all in the affirmative passing via majority. Resolution 2024-14 passed 4-0.

**Fire Department Administration:** LOSAP will be submitted to Commissioner Davies this evening.

**Ladies Aux:** No report

**EMU Report:**

Chief Read advised 44 calls for January; had a difficult call on Super Bowl Sunday, turned out to be a double fatal mva, full response from fire and ems. Attended a CISD with Chaplain Kennedy. Chief Read expects to have State certification done by June.

**Fire Chief Report:**

Chief Galatro reports 2 people in FF1. 42 calls for January. One new member from Station 46. Currently have 12 Swift Water Techs. Expect to move forward with purchase of Utility. Will be purchasing new air bags this year plus additional rescue tech equipment. Standard Operating Guideline authored by the Valley Chief's for technical rescues. Chief Galatro has been working on a grant with Rocky Hill Fire to purchase new radios and SCBA airpacks. Rescue repair is still in flux waiting on an estimate.

**Fire Official Report:** on file

**Attorney Report:** none

**Committee Reports:**

Clerk will work on BLS contract with Hopewell Borough.

Resolution 2024-16 EMS Contract with HTFD #1 for Capital Health Systems EMS services was reviewed by the Board and Commissioner Blasi submitted a heavily edited version to be viewed. Most of the changes were just verbiage, nothing that changes the intent of the contract. Chairman Morehouse asked the Board to move forward with the current version, and will have the changes for the next contract in 2025. Motion by Commissioner Davies, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Blasi, all in favor motion passes 4-0.

Commissioner Davies mentioned that there were a few people new to our LOSAP program which we acquired from Pennington EMS. It was noted that we have to transfer them into our fund, at the same step, via resolution. Clerk will reach out to the Pennington Borough Clerk to get information on the new members.

Dumpsters – issue with collecting monies owed to the Board, from the new owners of Boro Bean and the Local Greek. Chairman Morehouse said it was a good time to renegotiate the contract for shared expenses. Attorney is willing to send a letter to owners. Clerk will visit businesses in the morning to meet with managers to advise to cease using the dumpsters.

**Public Comment (non-agenda):** Comment to Board and Fire Dept for getting the LOSAP submitted so quickly was much appreciated.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the board, on a motion by Cmsr. Evans and seconded by Cmsr. Blasi unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on March 13, 2024.