

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

March 13, 2024

PRESENT: Cmsr. Morehouse
Cmsr. Myers
Cmsr. Davies
Cmsr. Blasi

Call to Order: The scheduled meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 pm by Treasurer 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 February minutes and with a motion by Commissioner Morehouse and 2nd by Commissioner Blasi the motion passes 4-0 with all in favor.

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 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 \$25,158.21 and \$70,811.26 from 2024 budget for a total of \$95,969.47. Motioned by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Blasi to pay the bills as submitted with a roll call vote all in the affirmative passing via majority. Resolution 2024-17 passed 4-0.

Fire Department Administration: None

Ladies Aux: No report

EMU Report:

Chief Read advised 38 calls for February; had a cpr save in East Amwell, will be honored by the EA Committee this week. EMT students are doing well in classes, 2 more people interested in taking class. Boro Bean offered incentives for first responders. Had a joint fire/ems drill went very well. Met with Princeton University Community Engagement officer and they will be funding transportation costs and possibly training costs for those students. Large response to the fire in Pennington Boro plus handled a serious MVA on the interstate. Princeton FAS is having issues with staffing, and we are helping where we can, whereas they are assisting us as needed as well. 36 people have been recruited in the last year.

Fire Chief Report:

Chief Galatro reports 32 calls for February. Assisted Pennington with house fire, also had a fire on New Rd, large turnout of personnel. 2 FF's will be graduating in June. No issues with trucks, all services have been completed. Looking into a grant to obtain funding for a gator. Water rescue team is in training, just made our own gear dryer. Still looking into grant for radio purchase. Would like to have the resolution ready for April meeting to move forward with Utility purchase. Rescue was sent down for appraisal waiting to hear back on the estimate.

Fire Official Report: on file

Attorney Report: Dumpster situation has resolved itself when they presented payment.

Committee Reports:

Commissioner Blasi presented a report of direct costs for responding disciplines including insurance costs. 14% of resources are going to Borough split between fire and ems. Looking to see where the budget is being spent across the board to see who we are supporting. Most budget funds are being spent on the fire side, with less call volume. This results in an approx. \$1900 cost per fire call.

Commissioner Davies mentioned that there were a few people new to our LOSAP program and he is waiting for some applications that have yet to be sent in. Expect to pay LOSAP at the next meeting. Also will be working on round 2 of LOSAP account closures, which will result in monies being refunded.

Resolution 2024-18 – EMS contract between Twp and Boro Boards to be resigned with edits suggested by Commissioner Blasi. Moved by Commissioner Blasi, 2nd by Commissioner Myers. Motion passed 4-0.

Chief Read states the State EMS Licensing will be completed by June. Just needs to have the back of the Ambulance 152-3 re-lettered.

Commissioner Myers states the insurance audit has been completed, we expect to receive a refund of about \$7,000. We are however paying a 61% increase per member covered due to injuries sustained in the previous 3 years. Overall the increase real cost is 6% for the policy (.

Public Comment (non-agenda): Councilwoman Hook asked about soft billing, which Chief Read explained the process of.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board, on a motion by Cmsr. Blasi and seconded by Cmsr. Davies unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on April 10, 2024.