

**MEETING MINUTES**

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

**HOPEWELL BOROUGH DISTRICT NO.1**

**May 8, 2024**

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

**Call to Order:** The scheduled meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 7:01 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 April minutes and with a motion by Commissioner Davies and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Blasi the motion passes 5-0 with all in favor.

**Public Comment:** Breakfast had a large turnout.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

The Treasurer offered Resolution 2024-23 to the Board for the 2023 LOSAP payment in the amount of \$25,498.63. Motion by Commissioner Davies and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Myers the motion passed 5-0.

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 \$32,692.01 and \$19,735.49 from 2024 budget for a total of \$52,427.50. Motioned by Commissioner Davies and seconded by Commissioner Evans to pay the bills as submitted with a roll call vote all in the affirmative passing via majority. Resolution 2024-24 passed 5-0.

**Fire Department Administration:** Pancake Breakfast excellent turnout, grossed over \$7,000. Parade coming up this month.

**Ladies Aux:** No report

### **EMU Report:**

Chief Read advised 44 calls for April; Dual training with the fire dept at Mrs. Johnson estate was well attended. EMT's are currently recertifying for June expirations. Spoke with PL Customs and they advised of a 30 month build out for a new ambulance. Re-chassis would be 5 months at about \$130,000. Daily EMT who has been very active is sidelined with a medical issue. Hoping to have other members fill the void. East Amwell is still struggling with responding. Chief Read advises we help when we can. Pennington EMS donated \$50,000 to a training fund for EMS education and another \$58,000 for general funds. Princeton FAS is struggling as well. Staffing seems to be hit or miss. Currently they don't seem to be volunteer friendly with unattainable goals and standards set for members.

### **Fire Chief Report:**

Chief Galatro reports 37 calls for April. Successful valley wide drill on rope rescue. Batt Chief Springer advised on the equipment needing to be purchased with the upcoming Resolution 2024-26. Motion was moved by Commissioner Davies and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Blasi, passed 5-0. Chief Galatro advised he is in receipt of 2 quotes for fire apparatus maintenance for 2024. Commissioner Morehouse asked for Resolution 2024-27 to be drafted awarding the contract to the lowest bidder Four Lanes FAR for a total of \$3,428.00 compared to EES bid of \$6,191.00. Motion by Comm. Blasi, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Evans. Brake repair for Tanker is expected to be under \$4,000. Rescue will be going out in June for paint repair.

**Fire Official Report:** on file

### **Attorney Report:**

### **Committee Reports:**

Commissioner Davies advised the LOSAP payment is complete for 2023.

Resolution 2024-25 (joining co-ops) – Motion by Csmr. Myers, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Csmr. Blasi all in favor motion passes 5-0.

Chief Read states the State EMS Licensing is progressing, met with Chris Tams from the State, everything seems to be on track. Waiting for access to system to upload documentation. Asked permission to purchase Hi-Viz jackets for active squad members out of uniform line.

**Public Comment (non-agenda):** Bunk room discussion and future of Department discussed, however the work to be done is out of the purview of the Board. Cannot use taxpayer money to fund projects that are privately owned, in this case the Department owns the building they would be responsible for paying for and upgrading the station.

Executive Session: Went into executive at 8:16 pm, came out at 8:26 pm.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the board, on a motion by Cmsr. Davies and seconded by Cmsr. Morehouse unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on May 8, 2024.