

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

October 9, 2024

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

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 September minutes and with a motion by Commissioner Evans and 2nd by Commissioner Blasi the motion passes 4-0 with one abstention, all others in favor.

Public Comment: Council member Hook advised of the ongoing inquiry with the redevelopment of 57 Hamilton Ave.

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

Bills were submitted to be paid from the 2024 budget for a total of \$69,505.37. Motioned by Commissioner Davies and seconded by Commissioner Myers to pay the bills as submitted with a roll call vote all in the affirmative passing via majority. Resolution 2024-41 passed 5-0.

Fire Department Administration: No one present

Ladies Aux: No one present

EMU Report:

Past Chief/Lt Morehouse advised 56 calls for the month. Capital Health will be sponsoring some training next week. 1st Aid Council will be having their convention next weekend. New recruit from Princeton, still having some issues with staffing, however still getting the truck on the road. Moving forward with the bunk room. Will consist of 2 bedroom for 4 sleepers. Expect to have first sleep over in May 2025. Have seen a drop in membership however gained several members from PU. Spoke about staffing hours

of the career staff. Chief Springer stated that we need to do a deep dive into the call base, producing a focused analysis for staffing. Chief Galatro mentioned that Chief Martin will retire effective 12.31.2024 and Deputy Chief Moore will be named as his successor. Chairman Morehouse asked for the paperwork to be submitted to the State to obtain the licensing. Spoke about calls in East Amwell, and the amount of calls we are starting to see being assigned to us in the southern end of the Township.

Fire Chief Report:

Chief Galatro reports 33 calls for September. CAFS system is down on the quint. Waiting on parts from Ocala, FL, however they are delayed due to severe weather. Vacuum leak on brush truck to be fixed. Great job by members and the truck at a brush fire in Princeton. Seeing good turnout on calls for membership. Valley Chiefs meeting held last week. Spoke of new construction in southern portion of the Township. Air Pack demos are unavailable at the moment, due to demand. Looking into getting a grant for purchasing new packs, however as a Valley wide purchase. Radio purchase expected for next meeting, but issue with the higher cost of Motorola radios compared to the Tait radio. \$212,000 for Motorola compared to Tait \$107,000.

Fire Official Report: on file

Attorney Report: None

Committee Reports: Cmsr. Myers advised a workers comp case has been vacated. Clerk Mullen advised of the need to go paperless for purchase orders. Board had healthy discussion about purchasing methods, and checks and balances. Board agreed to allow clerk to proceed.

Resolution 2024-42 was discussed about adopting the State OPRA form for the District. Cmsr. Morehouse asked that all the Resolutions 42-45 be moved and voted on. Motion made by Cmsr. Evans, seconded by Cmsr. Myers. Resolution 2024-46 was discussed and reviewed of the audit for 2023, Cmsr. Davies pointed out the vesting definition, which needs to be consistent with our LOSAP verbiage. Motion made by Cmsr. Evans, seconded by Cmsr. Myers, motion passes 5-0. Attorney Ackers attested to document.

Still waiting on roundtable date for commissioners from the Valley. Meeting is not of the full boards in attendance. Chairman advised the budget has been presented to the Township Board without issue. Chairman Morehouse advised we need to get the Borough to pass an ordinance for EMS fees in order to start billing in concert with the Township fees.

Public Comment (non-agenda): None

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board, on a motion by Cmsr. Evans 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 November 13, 2024.