

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

February 12, 2025

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

Call to Order: The scheduled meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 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: December minutes reviewed and accepted. Motion by Blasi and seconded by Davies.

Public Comment: No public

Resolution 2025-11 Authorizing the 2025 Rescue payment motion by Csmr Peters, 2nd by Csmr Blasi. Roll call for motion all in favor motion passes 5-0.

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 \$2,014.24. Bills were submitted to be paid from the 2025 budget for a total of \$39,221.07. 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 2025-12 passed 5-0.

Fire Department Administration: Dinner dance this weekend. Was able to team up with PSEG to replace all light fixtures in the building with more efficient LED. About 175 lights to be replaced. So far about 90 have been done. Only cost are incidental expenses for installation materials. There is a small roof leak, will be repaired after the spring thaw.

Ladies Aux: No one present

EMU Report: Chief Read reports 40 ems calls for January. Lengthy discussion about daytime responses, and the protocol of handling East Amwell calls. New training opportunities with Capital Health at a possible reduced cost. Last year crews put in over 27,000 hours on ems duty crews. Expect to send data to the State for licensing by tomorrow. Spoke about issues with licensing and response protocols.

Commissioner Morehouse advised Chief Read to have the rigs ready for inspection within 3 weeks with appointments with the State. The Twp ordinance has been distributed to the Board again. Chairman Morehouse wants the first reading of the ems fee ordinance to be at the Borough's March meeting. There was a question as to how the reimbursement would be split between the Boards. This would be discussed between the Boards in the near future.

Fire Chief Report: 37 calls for January for the year. Several expenses requested to pursue; \$1,200 in FD Budget for tools and items for Utility. \$750 for tech rescue for SS. Several people just completed ice rescue class and certified 7 members. Quint repair – still waiting on quotes for the cylinder refurbish. Was able to get a wrecker to assist with cylinder swap. E-One was contract about slide issue. The issue is well known, however never recalled, but they have improved the slide construction and repair of about \$5,000. Small radiator leak on quint, if it can't be repaired will need a new radiator. New Utility is in service and old utility has been removed from insurance. Ford dealer has appraised for \$14-15,000. Still waiting to hear about right of first refusal. Board approves Clerk to proceed with placing the truck on the auction site if Twp declines. Replaced onboard charging system on Rescue. Chairman states any expense over \$1,000 will be authorized by Commissioner Davies or Morehouse prior to moving forward. New airpack replacement costs will be about \$11,000 a pack, expecting to replace 20 packs and 100 masks. Working with an outside contractor to obtain grant funding. Will need to go out for referendum for purchase in 2026/27. Radios were tested by 2 different vendors, but still waiting on one more to be delivered for testing. Twp Commissioners have paid for a consultant to assess our apparatus fleet.

Fire Official Report: on file

Attorney Report: None

Committee Reports: Workers Comp audit underway, Board authorizes to give names to insurance adjuster who responded to calls in 2024.

Resolution 2025-13 Transfers moved by Blasi 2nd by Peters, all in favor motion passes 5-0.

Resolution 2025-14 Ems coverage thru Twp Board by Capital Health. Discussion by Board, same verbiage from last contract and price. Commissioner Blasi requests 154 activity for the last year. Moved by Blasi 2nd by Peters; Roll call vote 4-0-1 motion passes.

Public Comment (non-agenda): None

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board, on a motion by Cmsr. Blasi and seconded by Cmsr. Peters unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on March 12, 2025.