

The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1

In the Township of South Brunswick

September 14, 2009

Executive Session

Mr. Orchard reported that he and Commissioners Rosenberg and Behrend, along with Commissioners from the two other districts, had attended a meeting with Fire Marshall Laird and the Township Administrator. The purpose of the meeting was to ask the three districts to take over the Fire Inspectors Office, which would include Mr. Laird, five fire inspectors and one clerical person. The reason for such action would be to reduce the Township's budget deficit by having the districts fund it and be responsible for it. This would be beneficial to the Township but would force the districts to increase their budgets and seek voter approval. The Board discussed the ramifications of such an action including how to fund it, how to divide up between the districts and union labor issues. The Commissioners reviewed the inspection numbers provided by the Administrator.

Mr. Rosenberg reported that a meeting today with Mr. Braslow, three options were discussed:

1. Pro rate the funding amount with the other two districts – distribution of power could become an problem.
2. Allow each district to do their own inspections, including the hiring of personnel – this will require more administrative work.
3. Refuse to accept the responsibility in its entirety.

Mr. Orchard stated that there is one more option which would be to follow the East Brunswick model, which runs its entire program with one full-time person and four part-time people. It was noted that their entire \$300K budget is covered by inspection monies.

Mr. Rosenberg stated that Mr. Braslow indicated that the Board runs the chance of future problems with the Township if it does not take over this function, such as forced consolidation. Mr. Olson raised the issue of liability and who would be held responsible. He stated he does not feel good about being strong armed into accepting this responsibility. Mr. Rosenberg noted that the Administrator wants the change, if accepted, to take place in 2010, so it is off the Township's budget.

There will be a special meeting with the Joint Board, Mr. Braslow and the Township Administrator, once each district has had a chance to discuss it amongst themselves. Other related issues to be discussed at this meeting will be what happens to the vehicles currently used by the fire inspectors and their costs, plus salary and benefit costs. Mr. Rosenberg will put together a list of pertinent questions to be asked at the meeting. There was no further discussion on this issue.

Mr. Olson questioned the status of a contract for Mr. Corris and Mr. Behrend stated that there was no contract but he had developed a job description, which the Commissioners should review and make their suggestions.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Board came out of Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.