

The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1

In the Township of South Brunswick

Regular Monthly Meeting

July 13, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1, in the Township of South Brunswick, was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman William Orchard, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call:

Members present: Commissioners Behrend, Olson, Orchard, Rosenberg and Tarnowski

Members absent: none

Flag Salute: completed, followed by a moment of silence for Mr. James MacCarthy.

Agenda Changes: none

Address From The Public: none

Insurance Presentation by Mr. Kirk LeBlanc of Nottingham Insurance (summaries attached/details on file). Copies of the proposals were given to each Commissioner. Mr. LeBlanc highlighted the costs of each policy and noted that the census for the Group Life would need to be reviewed for additions and deletions. He also suggested that the list of apparatus be reviewed.

Mr. Behrend questioned whether the active members who are 70 and over, could get better Life Insurance coverage those who are charter or inactive members. Mr. LeBlanc stated that he would check into this, however, he does not believe there can be a differentiation. He explained that the Group Term Life Insurance is really a “perk” and has nothing to do with firefighting.

Mr. Orchard thanked Mr. LeBlanc for the presentation and indicated that the Board would be discussing the insurance policies in the coming months.

Approval of June Regular Meeting Minutes – Mr. Behrend noted that, under the Fire Coordinator’s Report, Station 23 was used for the Primary Election, not the Republication Primary. Mr. Olson made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Mr. Rosenberg seconded it. A vote was taken and passed.

Reports –

Line Activities – Assistant Chief Murnieks presented the monthly statistics, as Chief Perez was out of town (file copy attached).

	<u>June</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Total Events:	32	171
Total Event Hours:	42	214.25
Total Man Hours:	586.75	2735.3
Ave. Firefighters Per Call:	13.125	12.678

Mr. Rosenberg questioned whether the Ladder Truck was in service? Mr. Murnieks stated that, at this time, it is. He explained to the Board that on June 26th, while at a drill at Mon. Jct, there was an incident with the truck. When it was time to stow the aerial, Mr. Corris inadvertently left the nozzle down, which then struck the upper portion of the truck. There was some minor structural damage but the full extent of damage was to be determined by Absolute. The estimated cost, without nozzle repair or testing, if required, would be about \$3K. At this evening's drill, the Fire Company planned to test the nozzle to see how it was working. Mr. Murnieks noted that the truck does not need to be taken out of service, as the aerial portion is not damaged. If the ladder is needed, that will be a problem.

Mr. Orchard questioned what the Company was going to do to avoid a repeat of the incident. The Assistant Chief indicated that more training and, possibly a spotter, would be necessary. Mr. Rosenberg suggested including the correct procedure in the SOG's, which are currently being updated. Mr. Murnieks noted that insurance will cover the cost of repair and testing, less a \$250 deductible. Any major damage to the nozzle, will require a visit from a claims adjuster.

At this point in the meeting, the Assistant Chief was summoned to a fire call and would complete his report upon his return.

President – The Vice President presented the following report in the President's absence:

- Participation has been posted for the second quarter. There are seven members who will received letters indicating that their participation is below 20%.
- Matt Haygood will be going into the hospital soon.
- Progress is being made on the new building, including approval of monies for permits.
- The Fire Company participated in the Milltown July 4th Parade and won "Best Specialty Unit" for the Hummer.

- There was a cleanup of the Firehouse grounds on June 29th, which included general maintenance.

Treasurer – Mr. Rosenberg presented the July Report (file copy attached), which was reviewed by the Board. He stated he will be meeting with the Fitness 19 representative to review the list of participating firefighters. The Board discussed whether it made sense to continue using the Data Doctors. Mr. Rosenberg stated that the existing system is very slow and e-mails are not going through. Though the Data Doctors cleaned up the computer, it is now slower than before. A new server probably is necessary, along with using Verizon instead of Comcast.

Mr. Behrend stated that he had reviewed the Audit and found an arithmetic error on Page 7. Under “Interest on Investments”, the \$33K for this year, plus \$6K last year and the “increase or decrease” is an increase of \$263,740.00, which is totally incorrect. Mr. Rosenberg will contact Mr. Eyske about this situation.

Secretary – no report.

Fire Coordinator – Mr. Corris was not present but copies of his report were distributed (file copy attached). The Commissioners reviewed the report and noted that the incident involving Unit 223 (Ladder Truck) was included. This will be discussed later.

Chairman – nothing to report.

Standing Committee Report –

Fire Company Liaison – nothing to report.

Rescue Squad Liaison - nothing to report.

Public Relations – The Open House will be in October and will be advertised in the next Newsletter.

State Association – The next meeting will be in September at the Wildwood Convention, at which time, elections will take place. Commissioners Orchard and Rosenberg will attend.

Joint Board – The next meeting will be August 19th at Mon. Jct. Mr. Orchard reported that a fire inspector had talked to some Kendall Park firefighters and called them “scabs” and that the Company is taking away from paid firefighters/volunteers. In addition, the inspector tried to recruit Mr. Corris into the union. Chief Perez intervened and told the inspector to leave. Mr. Orchard stated that he wanted to pursue this issue, as it is not appropriate for any Township employee, on public time, to act in this manner. The Board agreed that this is a serious issue and will be addressed at the Joint Board meeting. Mr. Behrend indicated that this has been an ongoing issue for a number of years.

Insurance – Cigna has processed the claim for Jim MacCarthy’s beneficiary and the check will be mailed shortly.

Station 23 – Mr. Orchard reported that he did a temporary patch on the roof and will complete the job soon.

Unfinished Business:

Physicals – No bill has been received from Brunswick Urgent Card.

Rescue Truck – This will be addressed later in the meeting, by the Assistant Chief.

Cleaning Contract – Mr. Orchard reported that Kleen-Tech seemed to be doing a good job, - therefore, the Board decided to stay with them. This item will be removed from the agenda.

New Business: Mr. Rosenberg reported that the raise, agreed upon for the Fire Coordinator, has not been processed. This issue will be discussed under Executive Session.

Voucher List: Mr. Tarnowski made a motion to approve the Voucher List, as presented, and Mr. Behrend seconded it. A vote was taken and passed.

Continuation of Line Activities Report – The Assistant Fire Chief returned from the fire call and continued his report.

- The Rescue Truck Committee met with some truck manufacturers and will begin this week, to work on a generic specification. A drawing should be available at next month's meeting. The vendors contacted are :E-One, Pierce and Seagrave.
- The "I am Responding" Program is working extremely well. And the Fire Company would like to obtain the program. The cost would be \$800/year (one year agreement), with a \$50 one-time set up fee, plus a per call charge,, up to a maximum of \$300 per year. The Asst. Chief stated that the cost is worth every penny. He noted that the trail period ends at the end of July.
- Fire Marshall Laird has decided to removed the firefighting portion of the job description for the deputy fire marshalls. The Fire Chiefs have decided to take a neutral stance at this time and they have been assured, it will not affect HazMat response calls. This issue will probably be discussed at the next Joint Board meeting.
- The headsets are working very well.
- The nozzle on the Ladder Truck is not working correctly, therefore, the waterway will be taken out of service. A service repair call will be made tomorrow and hopefully, Absolute can come out, assess the damage and provide an estimate of the cost..

Executive Session: The Board went into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. They came out at 9:02 p.m.

Address From The Public: The Assistant Chief reported that Chief Perez will place a service call to Absolute tomorrow for the nozzle and the ladder. It was decided to take the apparatus out of service and move it to Station 23.

Adjournment: As there was no further business to discuss, Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Olson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed; the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie R. L. Knigge

Filename: mr071309