

The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1

In the Township of South Brunswick

Regular Monthly Meeting

February 3, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1, in the Township of South Brunswick was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman William Orchard, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

**Roll Call:**

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

Members absent: none

**Flag Salute:** completed

**Agenda Changes:** none

**Address From The Public:** none

**Approval of January Regular Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Behrend made a motion that the minutes be approved as submitted and Mr. Tarnowski seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

**Reports:**

Line Activities – Mr. Mernicks presented the report, as Chief Perez was not available. He reported the following statistics:

Month of January: 14 total calls, 2 maintenance nights and 2 drill nights for 18 total events, with an average of 10 firefighters per call. (Detailed file copy attached).

President - The President reported that he and the Chief are working on identifying the correct number of life members, which will be included in the Fire Company Contract.

Treasurer's Report/Voucher List - Mr. Rosenberg presented the financial information (file copy attached). He reported that the Board's finances are within the 14% allowed and that there will be about \$80K for surplus. Mr. Rosenberg noted that both the Travel line item and Fire Company Prevention were over budget.

The Commissioners reviewed the Voucher List. Mr. Tarnowski made a motion to approve the List as presented and Mr. Olson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Secretary – Mr. Olson stated that Mr. Corris has been working on material for the upcoming election.

Fire Coordinator – Mr. Corris presented his report (file copy attached). There were no specific areas of discussion.

Chairman – Mr. Orchard stated that he had sent a letter to the Workman's Comp Dispute Office and is waiting back for an answer, which is due on 2/10.

Mr. Orchard stated that the State will not allow the Board to put in more money than it did last year for LOSAP. The max LOSAP, therefore, will be \$1,516. At this point, there are 24 members who are eligible, which would total to \$38,500+. Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the maximum LOSAP payment for 2009; Mr. Tarnowski seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Standing Committee Reports –

*Fire Company Liaison* – Mr. Behrend reported that there are no issues to be discussed.

*Rescue Squad Liaison* – The Squad has requested the use of Station 23 for a CPR class, which Mr. Orchard approved.

*Public Relations* - Work will begin on the Spring Newsletter.

*State Association* - The next meeting will be March 6<sup>th</sup> at Aldelphia. Commissioners Orchard and Rosenberg will attend; other members are welcome also.

*Joint Board* – Mr. Orchard thanked all the Commissioners for attending last evening's meeting and urged all to attend the meeting on 2/17.

Mr. Orchard reported that two Township Committee members had indicated that the Board would be receiving the entitlement money, Mr. Watkins had denied them. This was voted on at last night's Township meeting and approved.

Commissioners Behrend and Orchard will be meeting this Mr. Watkins to discuss the "inspector" issue. The Commissioners discussed what the criteria should be for this discussion. The determined the following:

- The Board requires, in writing, the request for funding; if none is forthcoming, the deal is off. It was noted that any funding would be paid quarterly.
- The funding is also dependent upon a guarantee returning the staffing level to 5.

In addition, the Commissioners will discuss an issue involving Mr. Corris' salary, as well as a recent letter from Mr. Watkins indicating future cuts in services.

*Insurance* – all ready discussed.

*Station 23* – Mr. Orchard stated that drug paraphernalia was found at the Station, along with funny money. There also was damage to the shrubbery. Commissioners will canvas the area when they can. It seems that the problems are being done by kids. It was suggested that the trees be thinned or removed, so they do not provide cover.

**Unfinished Business:**

Rescue Truck – Mr. Mernicks reported that once progress is made on the building, they will begin to work on the truck.

Rehab Truck – No specifics were available but there was some indication that Franklin would provide some funding.

Truck 224 – Mr. Mernicks reported the following:

- The truck was used only 10 times for fire calls between 2007 and 2009.
- The auction value is between \$20K to \$25K.
- An estimate of \$40K-\$50K was received for a replacement vehicle. The vehicle would be a no frills F2500 Brush Truck.

Mr. Mernicks stated that Chief Perez does not feel that the usage warrants replacing it. It was noted that Monmouth Junction and the forestry service have brush trucks that can be called into service. Mr. Mernicks noted that if Kendall Park does decide to keep the truck and Monmouth Junction gets rid of theirs, a replacement would be needed at some point. Mr. Olson suggested one possible option would be to purchase a new truck when the pick-up is retired. The Board agreed to dispose of the apparatus; Mr. Corris will contact Mr. Braslow for the resolution wording and also look into government auction sites.

**New Business:** none

**Executive Session:** none

**Address from the Public:** none

**Adjournment:** As there was no further business to discuss, Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Olson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie R. L. Knigge

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