

The Board of Fire Commissioners  
Fire District No 1  
Regular Monthly Meeting/2009 Budget Hearing  
January 12, 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 7:00 p.m. by Chairman William Orchard, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

**Roll Call:**

Members present: Commissioners Rosenberg, Olson and Orchard

Members absent: Commissioners Paulus and Tarnowski

**Flag Salute:** completed

**Agenda Changes:** Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to add Mr. Raymond Weis from the Rescue Squad to the agenda, after Approval of Minutes; Mr. Olson seconded the motion.

**2009 Public Hearing:** Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to open the 2009 Public Hearing and Mr. Olson seconded it. As there were no comments from the public present, Mr. Olson made a motion to close the Hearing and Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed to close the 2009 Public Hearing.

**Address From The Public:** no comments

**Approval of December Minutes:**

*December 1<sup>st</sup> Work Session:* Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Mr. Olson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

*December 8<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting:* Mr. Rosenberg made a correction to one word, then made a motion to accept the minutes and Mr. Olson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

**Request from Rescue Squad:** Mr. Weis made a request from the Rescue Squad, for the District's Expedition. Mr. Orchard stated that the Board is in agreement but noted that the vehicle needs some work, specifically, \$2,700 for the front end; as well as, new tires. In addition, the Squad will need to sign a Hold Harmless Letter, which Mr. Orchard will obtain from the Attorney. Finally, the radio will be removed.

Mr. Weis commented that there is no hot water at Station 23. Mr. Corris will check into this issue.

Chief Perez stated that title for Expedition should be located know, to avoid any delays with transfer.

### **Reports:**

Line Activities – Chief Perez reported the following:

- He and a couple of other Company members will take the necessary equipment down to be installed in the new vehicles this week, so they should be ready in the near future.
- Firefighter physicals were completed for 12 or 13 members and will be paid from the 2008 Budget.
- Mr. Laird will be attending the Chief's Meeting this week and will address some staffing issues and new procedures for responding to calls.
- 2008 LOSAP have been posted in the Fire House; 29 members qualified (file copy attached).

President – Mr. Scherer reported that one new member has come on and will be attending training. Also, both Mr. Paulus and Mr. McCarthy continue to have health issues.

Secretary – no report

Treasurer – Mr. Rosenberg presented his report (file copy attached) and stated that the Board came in under budget for 2008. Mr. Rosenberg commented that he and Mr. Orchard had discussed Mr. Ezyske's charges, which seem high, for the services rendered. Mr. Orchard is looking into other auditors.

Fire Coordinator – Mr. Corris presented his report. Highlights included:

- Inventory: Mr. Orchard requested an adjustable sledgehammer be purchased.
- Station 23: No hot water, which will be looked into. The Training Trailer is still be stored at the Station and as it doesn't cause any problems, it will probably remain there.
- NFIRS reporting is almost completely up to date.
- He is still gathering data on Gear Washing Systems.
- Smith and Solomon can do driver evaluations on Saturdays, at a cost of \$275 per firefighter.
- A voucher for the renewal of the Air Pak International service contract, will be cut and signed at next month's meeting.

- Central Jersey Securities, who are responsible for monitoring the fire alarms, have increased their fee to \$417.

Chairman – A vote must be taken regarding LOSAP. Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to increase the 2008 Length of Service Award Program contribution to \$1,516.00, per person (which is the maximum allowable); Mr. Olson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

The Chairman read a letter stating that there will be a meeting between Mr. Potts, Mr. Braslow, the Secretary of the State Association with Assemblywoman Lampet, to discuss concerns regarding producing a 5-year financial plan. Any questions or concerns, should be forwarded to Mr. Potts.

Standing Committee Reports –

*Fire Company Liaison* – no report.

*Rescue Squad Liaison* – previously discussed.

*Public Relations* – it was decided to do two newsletters: Spring and Fall

*State Association* – the next meeting will be in March, Commissioners Orchard and Rosenberg will attend.

*Joint Board* – Mr. Rosenberg reported that the next meeting will be in February. District 1 is responsible for the Joint Board Secretary's fee; the cost needs to be obtained. Mr. Orchard noted that no response has been received from Mr. Watkins, regarding Mr. Corris' contract.

*Insurance* - Mr. Olson reported that Cigna sent a quote to increase the life insurance to \$25K; the cost would be \$1.03 per \$1,000 or about a \$5K increase. Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to increase the life insurance to \$25K per person; Mr. Olson seconded the motion, providing the price quoted above is firm. A vote was taken and passed.

Mr. McIntire questioned whether the \$25K was full at 70 years of age, are only half. Mr. Olson will look into this issue.

*Station 23* – Mr. Corris reported that the hot water issue is currently being looked into.

**Unfinished Business:**

Physicals – Mr. Corris reported that 13 were completed, however, the Board has only been billed for 7, plus one new member physical. Six still need to be paid for the '08 Budget.

New Vehicles – previously discussed under the Chief's report.

Rescue Vehicle – tabled at this time.

**New Business:**

Adoption of 2009 Budget - Mr. Rosenberg stated that a signed copy of the 2009 Budget was not returned from DCA, however, he had been in contact with the appropriate division and "Christy" said it was OK to adopt this evening. The Administrative Assistant read Resolution 09/10-1 - 2009 Adopted Budget Resolution (file copy attached). Monetary figures included in the budget are:

Property Tax Levy Cap – zero (0) dollars

Total Revenues - \$946,900

Amount to be raised by taxation - \$726,750

Total Appropriations - \$219,850

Mr. Olson made a motion to approve the resolution, as read, and Mr. Rosenberg seconded it. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Rosenberg-yes; Mr. Olson-yes; Mr. Orchard-yes; Mr. Paulus-absent and Mr. Tarnowski-absent. The resolution passed unanimously.

Transfer of Fund Balances – Mr. Rosenberg read resolution 09/10-2 – Authorizing Budget Transfers and/or Encumbrances Relative to 2008 Budget (file copy attached). Mr. Olson made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Rosenberg seconded it. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Olson-yes; Mr. Orchard-yes; Mr. Rosenberg-yes; Mr. Paulus-absent and Mr. Tarnowski-absent. The resolution unanimously passed.

Temporary Budget Resolution – Mr. Rosenberg read resolution 09/10-3 – Adoption of Temporary Budget for 2009 (file copy attached). Mr. Olson made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Olson-yes; Mr. Rosenberg-yes; Mr. Orchard-yes; Mr. Paulus-absent and Mr. Tarnowski-absent. The resolution was passed unanimously.

**Voucher List:** Mr. Olson made a motion to approve the List as presented and Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

**Executive Session:** none

**Address From The Public:** Mr. McIntire informed that there is a move beginning to incorporate all districts within the Township and also to move the Budget Election date to November. He recommended the Board begin a campaign to block this change. Mr. Rosenberg stated that the State Association has hired consultants to address these issues.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie R. L. Knigge

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