

The Commissioners of Fire District No.1

In the Township of South Brunswick

Regular Monthly Meeting

March 9, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of The Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1, Township of South Brunswick, was called to order at 7:26 p.m. by Chairman William Orchard, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

**Roll Call:** Commissioners Olson, Rosenberg, Tarnowski and Orchard

**Flag Salute:** completed

**Agenda Changes:** none

**Address From The Public:** none

**Approval of Minutes:**

*January 26<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes:* Tape was not discernable. Question of the Resolution 09/10-2(a)?

*February 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes:* Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Mr. Olson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

**Reports:**

Line Activities – Chief Perez presented the following report for February (file copy attached).

- Total Events: 20
- Total Man-Hours: 228.75
- Average Man-Hours: 11.438
- Training Sessions: 4
- Duty Sessions: 4
- Grand Total: 56 events (45 calls, 7 training and 3 duty nights).

Also reported:

- Incident Management Course 400 was attended by Firefighters Murnieks , Laterso, Coffi and Chief Perez with Monmouth Junction firefighters.

- On 3/26-3/28 there will be a Extraction course to be attended by KPVFD.
- The Deputy Fire Marshall has requested training on response to fire calls. The Company will work with them and Mr. Laird's group to keep everyone up to date. The Chiefs will discuss this at their next meeting.
- The Chief would like to purchase some air paks and spare bottles, under the State contract. The total cost would be \$33,320.40. After a brief discussion about the entire package, the Board agreed to this purchase.
- Chief Perez and the Asst. Chief have reviewed new headsets, which would cost about \$5800 per truck to outfit. The Chief stated he would begin with Truck 221 to see how the firefighters like them. Should the Board agree, he would wait to purchase until the new models come out later this year. The Commissioners agreed with the Chief's request.
- In 2010 there will be new emission standards which will cost between \$15K and \$20K to retrofit the apparatus. The Chief suggested specing out new a Rescue Pumper to replace Truck 225 and the current rescue vehicle. The cost of this vehicle would be about \$650K.

Chairman Orchard brought up the issue of the Rescue Vehicle and stated that the Fire Company had gone out on the last three extractions and had to stand around. He noted that the Rescue Squad's tools were breaking down (hydraulic fluid, etc.). Mr. Rosenberg suggested looking at a light duty vehicle, while Mr. Orchard stated that the pumper must be replaced. The Chief reiterated his suggestion of combining two trucks into one, particularly in the current economic situation. The Board agreed to establish a committee to discuss these issues.

President –Mr.Scherer reported that Mr. James R. Paulus had passed away and service memorial would be held on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Also, there will be a final Commissioner payment in his name, however, Mr. Rosenberg will check with Mr. Braslow on this.

Treasurer – Mr. Rosenberg presented his report (file copy attached). Mr. Tarnowski questioned the payment for the Chiefs' vehicles, which have not been delivered. Mr. Rosenberg reported that there have been many calls regarding the delivery date, without success. He will contact Mr. Braslow on how to proceed.

Secretary – Mr. Tarnowski reported that the election went well.

Fire Coordinator –\_Mr. Corris presented his report (file copy attached). There were minor discussion on each topic. Other topics noted were:

- Truck 230 developed a rod knock and an estimate for a new motor would be \$3326.95.
- The Grant Letter Workshop which he attended last month was very good.

Chairman – Mr. Orchard reported that, per Mr. Braslow, a new Commissioner will need to be appointed to fill Mr. Paulus' seat. He requested that each Board Member think about who they think should be put forward.

Standing Committee Reports –

*Fire Company Liaison* - Mr. Orchard will take this over.

*Rescue Squad Liaison* – Mr. Tarnowski will take this over.

*Public Relations* – Mr. Orchard will provide some items to be included in the next Newsletter, including a memoriam for Mr. Paulus. Mr. Orchard will contact Wolfcat Productions to begin work on the Newsletter.

Mr. Orchard stated that he had checked into Firecompanies.com, which handles websites for fire companies. The basic package has an initial cost of \$500, with a monthly cost of \$40. The top tier package would cost \$600, with an \$80/month charge. He stated that he wants to get as much information out to the public as possible. The Board discussed the idea of combining the District into the Fire Company's website. After a brief discussion, the Commissioners approved spending \$1560 for the initial set-up and first fee, followed by \$960 for the following year.

*State Association* – Commissioners Orchard and Rosenberg attended the last meeting. Items of interest included:

- As of 2008, any newly elected Commissioner must file a personal financial disclosure statement. Mr. Braslow will be contacted regarding this issue.
- There is a new law pending to allow fire districts to take over and fund EMS services.

*Joint Board* – Mr. Orchard reported that nothing has been done on the shared service plan. Mr. Rosenberg stated that there was a request to the Districts and Fire Companies to look at their purchases and see what items all three fire service groups use and could be bought in bulk to reduce costs. Chief Perez stated that he wasn't sure how beneficial this would be.

In addition, there has been some discussion, at the State level, about the actual need for fire districts.

*Insurance* – Mr. Olson reported that the increase in the Life Insurance coverage was taken care of, per the District's agent, however, no written confirmation has been received. Also, Mr. Olson and the agent tried to get Cigna to pay the higher amount to Mrs. Paulus, but the request was denied. Mr. Olson stated that if the increase had been handled in a timely manner, there would not have been a problem. He suggested that the Board again look into other insurance agents.

*Station 23* – previously discussed.

**Unfinished Business:**

Physicals – these will be starting up soon.

New Vehicles – Mr. Braslow will be contact on this issue and how to proceed.

Rescue Truck – nothing new to report.

**New Business:** none

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

**Executive Session:** The Board went into Executive Session at 8:54 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. They came out at 9:06 p.m.

**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. Tarnowski seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie R. L. Knigge

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