

The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1

In the Township of South Brunswick

Regular Monthly Meeting

April 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 7:05 p.m. by Chairman William Orchard, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

**Roll Call:**

Members present: Commissioners Rosenberg, Olson, Tarnowski and Orchard

Members absent: None

**Flag Salute:** completed

**Agenda Changes:** Comments from the Rescue Squad representative were added prior to Address From The Public.

**Vehicle Donation:** Mr. Orchard stated that the Rescue Squad had offered either the Expedition or the Crown Victoria. He noted that the Expedition would need about \$6K worth of repairs. Mr. Weiss stated that, though the Squad would prefer the Expedition, they did not have the money for the repairs; therefore, they would accept the Crown Victoria. The Board agreed to give the Rescue Squad the Crown Vic, pending a signed Hold Harmless Letter, which will be obtained from Mr. Braslow.

**Address From The Public:** none

**Approval of Minutes:**

*March 9<sup>th</sup> Reorganization Meeting* - Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Mr. Olson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

*March 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting* - Mr. Tarnowski made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Mr. Olson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

**Reports:**

Treasurer – Mr. Rosenberg presented his report (file copy attached). He stated that the bill for NJFE has still not been received; Mr. Corris will look into this. Also, all Commissioners will be paid this evening.

Line Activities – Chief Perez presented his report (file copy attached) and noted the following:

- March Statistics: 22 Total Events = 12 fire calls, 6 training, 3 duty nights. Total Year-to-date = 81 Total Events, with 57 calls (567 man-hours), 13 drills and 10 duty nights.
- The second of the Three-Company Drills will be held on 4/29
- KPVFC will cover for North Brunswick this Saturday, as they celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Ladder Truck will be there until 11 p.m.
- The new vehicles have been received and everything seems to be fine. Truck 230's grill lights have had some condensation; this will be monitored to see if it continues. He noted they are under a one-year warranty.
- One of Kingston's Apparatus is being stored at Station 23. It was noted that the Board was not aware this would be taking place.

President – Mr. Scherer presented the Architect's Rendition of the new addition to the existing New Road building. He noted that the Fire Company hopes to be able to fund it themselves. He also reported that five new members have been added to the Company; two juniors and three regular members.

Secretary – nothing to report.

Fire Coordinator – Mr. Corris presented his report (file copy attached). Highlights included:

1. AED's were inventoried and installed on the new Chiefs vehicles and Engine 222.
2. Station 23: The Training Trailer and Kingston's antique fire truck are being stored there. The Rescue Squad side of the building is a mess and the exhaust fume removal system is out of order. Also, the tensioner support was broken and no one reported it. Three contracts for landscaping were received and he suggested staying with Progressive, as they are local and gave the lowest bid. The Board agreed.
3. As for Vehicle Maintenance, all apparatus is in service. The lettering has been removed from the retired Chiefs vehicles, but they need to be cleaned out. Also an estimate to replace the map box in Engine 222 came to about \$3K. The Commissioners discussed this issue and decided to table this expenditure until the end of the year.
4. Work continues on the run books, with Middlesex zip-codes added to use with GPS.
5. All reports are up-to-date for NFIRS.
6. He will be attending FDIC next week and will look into Gear Washing Machine vendors.

8. He will begin a new project which will be to inventory “old, broken, unused, unrepairable equipment”. This will assist with the “Spring Cleaning”. Mr. Orchard stated that nothing can be thrown out before obtaining official guidelines as to disposals.

9. Hose testing contract was signed; it will take place either April or May.

Chairman – Mr. Orchard stated that a new Commissioner needs to be appointed to fill the term of Mr. Paulus. Mr. Dean Behrend has indicated a desire to take this position. He is a charter member of the Fire Company and a former Board of Fire Commissioner. Mr. Orchard recommended accepting Mr. Behrend. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Olson-yes; Mr. Tarnowski-yes; Mr. Rosenberg-yes and Mr. Orchard-yes.

Mr. Orchard stated presented documents forwarded from Roger Potts; they are available for review, should any Commissioners wish to look at them. He noted the package includes pending State bills and the Lurack Report (indicates consolidation doesn't pay but shared services are important).

The records of Jim Paulus need to be reviewed. Mr. Corris has reviewed some of the material but Mr. Orchard stated that all the Commissioners will need to look at their particular Committee area.

Standing Committee Reports –

*Fire Company Liaison* – Mr. Behrend will chair this committee.

*Rescue Squad Liaison* – nothing to report.

*Public Relations* - A draft of the Newsletter was presented (file copy attached) and all Commissioners agreed to run with it.

*State Association* – the next meeting will be in June.

*Joint Board* – the next meeting will be 4/15; Commissioners Orchard and Rosenberg will attend and possibly Commissioner Olson. Election of officers will take place at the meeting.

*Insurance* – Mr. Orchard will chair this committee. Mrs. Paulus will be contacted to see if she had received the LOSAP payment. Mr. Corris noted that she has received a payment from the Fire Association, but Cigna paperwork still needs to be completed.

*Station 23* – Mr. Orchard questioned whether the Board should consider changing cleaning vendors, as the restrooms are in terrible shape. He noted that Maintenance King, who cleans the New Road building, might be a better choice. The cost would be \$200/month for two cleanings. He suggested the Commissioners stop by Station 23 and check it out. This issue will be tabled until next month.

Mr. Rosenberg stated that tables need to be obtained, so that the upstairs can be used as a training room. Mr. Corris will look into costs. Mr. Orchard noted that there is a lot of old building material stored under the eaves and the stairway; these items need to be looked at and anything bad should be thrown out.

**Unfinished Business:**

Physicals – in progress.

New Vehicles - Mr. Rosenberg stated that, in order to make the laptops work in the new Chiefs vehicles, Air Cards will need to be purchased, at a cost of \$1,200/year. These cards will enable the laptops to be able to connect to other Township servers and provide data back and forth. The Board briefly discussed this issue and voted on it, with all Commissioners voting in favor of the purchase. Mr. Corris will order the cards.

The license plates should be available within the week.

Rescue Vehicle – Chief Perez questioned whether funding would be available for the purchase of a rescue vehicle, which should cost about \$650K. He would like some guidance on whether the Committee should proceed. Mr. Rosenberg stated that financing issues need to be addressed, as well as budgetary constraints. Chief Perez suggested that everyone should try to come up with a reasonable approach to the issue and stressed that he does not want to keep the Committee working on something that may not happen for a couple of years. The Board agreed to look at this issue again next month.

Mr. Orchard stated, for the record, that the District is *not* funding the addition to the building.

**New Business:** Mr. Rosenberg questioned what is going to be done with the Expedition? He suggested going out to bid with it, with a minimum bid of \$500. It was noted that the light bar, wiring harness for the radios, controls, and lettering need to be removed. Mr. Corris will begin this process. The Board decided to send the Expedition out for bid, with a minimum bid of \$500. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Rosenberg-abstain; Mr. Olson-yes; Mr. Tarnowski-yes and Mr. Orchard-yes.

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

**Executive Session:** The Board went into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. They came out at 8:10 p.m.

**Address From The Public:** none

**Adjournment:** As there was no further business to discuss, Mr. Olson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie R. L. Knigge

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