

The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1

In the Township of South Brunswick

Regular Monthly Meeting

June 8, 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 7:04 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

Agenda Changes: none

Address From The Public: none

Approval of May Regular Meeting Minutes: Mr. Behrend made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Mr. Tarnowski seconded it. A vote was taken and passed, with Mr. Orchard abstaining.

Reports:

President – no report.

Treasurer – Mr. Rosenberg distributed the Treasurer's Report (file copy attached). He reported that Bank of America had frozen the Board's account, which had about \$2K in it, as there were no longer any Commissioners on their signature card records. A letter will be written to acquire the money and close the account.

Line Activities – Chief Perez reported that for the month of May there were 28 total events, made up of 23 fire calls, 3 training drills and 2 work details. Year-to-date there were 108 fire calls, which is a little above average. The Chief also reported the following:

- There was a serious car accident, which required firefighters having to cut the occupant out of the car. This took about an hour; those handling this situation did a great job.
- Headsets will be installed within the next two weeks.
- The Company has received a sixty-day trial period for the program "I Am Responding". This program allows firefighters to dial in and indicated they are headed to the firehouse.

Mike Corel used it last week for the extraction cal and it worked well. The Company will continue to use it and evaluate its effectiveness.

Mr. Orchard stated that the cost is \$800/yr, with a \$50 set-up fee. There is also a 2.8 cent charge per call.

- The computers are up and running on the Command Vehicles. Google Maps and other GPS have been used by the Chief and Asst. Chief. In addition, HazMat book has been downloaded.

Secretary – no report.

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

- STATION 23 was used for the Primary Election on 6/2, as a polling area. There were no problems.
- The First Aid Squad has cleaned up their side of the building. Also, they now have possession of the Crown Victoria.
- The leak in the roof will require about 2-3 hours of work. Mr. Orchard and Mr. Corris will take care of the repair.
- INVENTORY AND VEHICLE MAINTENANCE continues.
- GEAR WASHING MACHINE estimates have been obtained and range from \$8,700 to \$14,000. The Milner unit runs \$10,256, with freight and set-up included. This is the cheapest of the three estimates obtained. It's possible that a grant is available; Mr. Corris will look into this option. The location of the machine will need to be determined, as it has specific requirements.
- "SENIOR SOCIETY" has been inventorying old, broken, unused and/or unrepairable equipment. Donation of some of the equipment might be possible, as long as the Company's name is removed. Mr. Corris will contact Helmetta, as he found some old lighting that should have gone with the apparatus they received from the Company.
- HOSE TESTING was completed on May 20th, along with ground ladders. Documentation on both tests (basically good) has been filed.

Chairman – Mr. Orchard presented a download of Assemblywoman Lampet's request for a five-year plan. He will leave the copy for Commissioners to review.

Mr. MacCarthy was taken to the hospital, with possible kidney failure.

Standing Committee Reports –

Fire Company Liaison – Mr. Behrend requested a “job description” or at least, an indication of what the Board is looking for. Mr. Rosenberg stated that keeping the Board informed of what goes on at the Company’s meetings is necessary. Mr. Behrend stated he would also bring concerns of the Company back to the Board.

Rescue Squad Liaison – no report.

Public Relations – The Newsletter was sent out. The website should be up within the next couple of weeks.

State Association - No one attended the May meeting. The next meeting will be on June 6th.

Joint Board – The next meeting will be in July.

Insurance – The death claim for James Paulus was received and forward for processing. Mr. Corris will contact Mrs. Paulus to insure that the money is in her account.

Kirk LaBlanc from Nottingham Insurance will attend next month’s meeting to review his Company’s proposal.

The Crown Victoria has been taken off insurance, however, the Expedition must remain, as it is still on the property. The Command Vehicles are covered.

Station 23 – Mr. Orchard stated that the boiler was in operation; it seems that the batteries in the thermometer need to be replaced. Mr. Corris will replace them and check on the filter. Mr. Olson will check out the heating issue.

Unfinished Business:

Physicals – ongoing.

Cleaning Contract – The Commissioners discussed options available. It was noted that Clean Tech does not have a committed contract, therefore, it can be ended at anytime. King Maintenance is also a month to month contract. It would cost an additional \$100/month. Mr. Rosenberg stated that the increased money would be available. It was decided to table this issue until next month, after all Commissioners had a chance to see Station 23’s cleanliness for themselves.

Rescue Truck – Mr. Orchard opened the discussion by stating that it was time to make a decision. The Board discussed the financial issues surrounding obtaining a Rescue Truck and Mr. Orchard stated that there was no reason to pay cash for the vehicle. Should the vehicle be purchased, it would be a replacement for Truck 225 (one year early).

Mr. Olson questioned whether both the Fire Company and Rescue Squad having a Rescue Vehicle would be overkill. Mr. Orchard stated that the Squad needs new tools and it is becoming an issue. Basically, the Fire Company is now doing the rescues because of this situation.

Chief Perez stated that financing must be secured before it goes to bid, as the manufacturer won't build it until they get their first payment.

Mr. Tarnowski stated that he would be agreeable, as long as \$500k was kept in the kitty. Mr. Orchard stated that the equipment would probably be budgeted out over two years.

Mr. Behrend questioned whether it is really necessary. Mr. Orchard and Mr. Corris presented examples of how the Squad has not been able to perform the necessary functions. Mr. Behrend will discuss the entire issue with the other Commissioners, off line.

Mr. Olson stated that he does not want this to become a political issue. Chief Perez stated he has documentation for the last two years on whom and how incidents have been handled. Mr. Olson stated that if the documentation verifies that the Company has been handling rescues, than he does not have any problems with moving ahead.

The Board agreed that the Fire Company should proceed with specing a vehicle and looking into financing options.

New Business: none

Voucher List: Mr. Olson made a motion to approve the Voucher List and Mr. Tarnowski seconded it. A vote was taken and passed, with Mr. Rosenberg abstaining. It was noted that new checks need to be printed.

Address From the Public: Mr. James McIntire questioned what the cleaning cost would be if gear was sent out to be cleaned versus buying a gear washing machine. Mr. Corris stated that the cost is about \$200 per set, each time it is sent out. Per NFPA rules, gear should be cleaned after every use.

Executive Session: The Board went into Executive Session at 8:05 to discuss personnel issues.

Adjournment: After the Board came out of Executive Session, Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Olson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie R. L. Knigge

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