

The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1

In the Township of South Brunswick

Special Meeting

November 23, 2009

A special 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. Chairman William Orchard, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the 2010 Budget.

Roll Call:

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

Members absent: none

Flag Salute: complete

Address From the Public: no one present

Mr. Rosenberg opened the meeting by stating that he had included a \$82K line item for a fire inspector but indicated that the Board was not committed to it. He felt it was easier to include it in the budgeting process than trying to add it later on. Mr. Olson stated that his impression, from Mr. Laird, was that amount was negotiable, considering that a newly hired inspector's salary would be about \$40K, plus benefits. Mr. Olson recommended \$60K or \$15K per quarter, with the stipulation that if there were any layoffs, the situation would be reviewed and monies might be retracted. Both Mr. Rosenberg and Mr. Tarnowski questioned whether the amount of life hazards and inspections in District 1 would warrant paying \$60K. It was noted that the District's number is 54 for life hazards. Both Mr. Behrend and Mr. Orchard stated they did not want to include the entire \$82K in the budget. The Commissioners discussed what would be an appropriate amount to budget based on the number of life hazards and inspections.

Mr. Behrend suggested that the Township Administrator be asked directly what amount he was looking for from District 1. Mr. Rosenberg stated that Mr. Watkins has already indicated that he would like the districts to fund one inspector each. The Commissioners continued to discuss the financial aspects of funding a fire inspector and finally decided to budget \$40K. Mr. Braslow will be contacted for his counsel regarding obtaining a written request for the funding from the Township.

The Board scheduled a special budget meeting on December 8th at 7 p.m. to approve the 2010 Budget and pass the appropriate resolution. This will insure that Mr. Ezyske has enough time to format and file the budget with the State.

The Commissioners discussed the LOSAP budget, based on a request from Chief Perez, to mirror the new Fire Company requirements for participation. Mr. Orchard stated that the current amount should be maintained and the rest of the Board agreed.

Mr. Rosenberg stated that the Chief had requested an increase in the Travel budget to cover trips to visit the new apparatus manufacturer, instead of including these monies in the bid spec. The Commissioners decided to keep the budget at \$10K.

Mr. Orchard suggested increasing the Equipment, Maintenance and Repair budget line item, as all the apparatus was aging. The Commissioners agreed to increase it to \$27,500.

The Board discussed the Purchase of Fire Equipment and questioned what made up this year's request from the Chief. Mr. Rosenberg recommended that Chief Perez provide an itemized listing of anticipated expenditures, as \$40K was budgeted at this time. The Chief was available at this evening's meeting and stated that some hose would be needed and that air paks and bottles would be part of the bid spec. He noted that a server would not be necessary, as the software vendor would support their product. The Board agreed to stay at \$40K.

At the bottom of the draft budget were three alternatives, based on the assessed valuations, which will be forthcoming from the Township.

Mr. Rosenberg explained two possible ways to handle Truck 221 and their financial impacts.

1. Pay off the truck and finance the entire new apparatus, with an infusion of \$215K from the Cash Management Fund.
2. Do not pay off the truck which would mean that the debt from Truck 222 would go off the cap.

There is no budget line item to address the Rescue Squad's request for monies for its Rehab Truck, as they are still waiting on some cost estimates. Mr. Rosenberg stressed to them that this should be wrapped up in 2009.

Mr. Rosenberg stated taxes will be raised by 4%, which is the cap. Again, it was stated that there will be another special meeting on December 8th to finalize and introduce the 2010 Budget.

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Behrend seconded it; a vote was taken and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie R. L. Knigge

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