

The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1

In the Township of South Brunswick

Regular Monthly Meeting

June 2, 2010

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 7:07 p.m. by Chairman William Orchard, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

**Roll Call:**

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

Members absent: None

**Flag Salute:** completed

**Agenda Changes:** none

**Address From the Public:** none

**Approval of April Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Mr. Tarnowski seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed to accept.

**Reports:**

Line Activities – The Chief was no available to present his report. File copy of the monthly and year-to-date statistics is attached.

President – No representative was present.

Treasurer's Report – Mr. Rosenberg presented the Treasurer's Report and Voucher List (copies attached). He reported that there were a couple of items over budget but mostly everything is OK. He noted that there was a large bill from Absolute Fire Company: \$1,300 of which, \$1,050 was to repair the step on Truck 221. Mr. Corris stated that this issue would be covered under his report. As there was no further discussion, Mr. Tarnowski made a motion to approve the Voucher List and Mr. Behrend seconded it. A vote was taken and passed, as presented.

Secretary - no report.

Fire Coordinator – Mr. Corris presented his reports for May and June (copies attached). The Board discussed installing extra lighting in the rear parking lot of Station 23, to help deter illegal activity there. The quote received from Cioffi Electric is \$1,065.00. Mr. Orchard made a motion to accept the quote and proceed; Mr. Rosenberg seconded it. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Mr. Corris continued his report and highlighted the following:

- Unit 221's automatic step issue. He stated that he has discussed with a vendor the possibility of getting a better step. In Mr. Corris' June report, he suggests replacing the automatic steps with permanent steps that hang down and are bolted to the bottom of the cab. The estimated cost would be about \$1,100 for both steps. The Board agreed with the suggestion. Mr. Behrend made a motion to accept the proposal of the Fire Coordinator to replace the steps for approximately \$1,000; Mr. Olson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.
- Repairs were made to Unit 223's power loss and to date, there have been no more problems.
- Pre-Plans: The Fire Safety Bureau will be posting truss symbols on commercial buildings built with trusses. This will be beneficial in identifying those properties, as they have a certain rating which firefighters need to be aware of.
- The trailer sold on GovDeals for \$2,260, with a \$169 commission charged.
- Some of the portable radios are developing cracks on the face plates. He will take care of getting them replaced.

Mr. Corris reported that there was a lot of hose at Station 23 that failed testing but could be repaired and used by another fire company. He suggested selling it "as is" to anyone who might be interested, with the understanding that they are informed it has failed hose testing. It could also be sold on GovDeals, in one lot. Of course, a "hold harmless" letter is necessary. Mr. Corris stated that he would save some of the hose to use for training purposes. The Board agreed with Mr. Corris' suggestion.

Mr. Corris reported that the I AM Responding.com subscription is due for renewal. There are three "packages": 1 year at \$800; 3 years at \$725/yr. and 5 years at \$650/yr. The Board agreed to go with the 5-year plan, with the money coming out of the Communications line item. Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to go with a 5-year subscription to I AM Responding, paying annually \$650/yr.; Mr. Tarnowski seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Chairman – Mr. Orchard stated that the State Assembly is pushing to have fire elections held during the general election in November. More about this issue will be available at the State Association meeting, this Saturday.

Standing Committee Reports –

*Fire Company Liaison* – nothing to report.

*Rescue Squad Liaison* – Mr. Rosenberg that the Rehab Truck was a last Wednesday multi-company drill. Mr. Weis requested that District No. 1 pay \$22 for the Gatorade consumed there and Mr. Rosenberg agreed to the request. They plan to ask each district to pay, when the event is in that particular district.

*Public Relations* – Mr. Behrend stated that work will need to begin soon on the Fall/Winter Newsletter. Mr. Orchard will check with Mr. Lou Swartz to see if he is interesting in helping out.

*State Association* – the next meeting will be Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at Aldelphia; Mr. Behrend will attend.

*Joint Board* – Mr. Orchard reported that Mr. Rosenberg was elected Chairman and the following:

- District 2 has decided to do their own inspections and feels that the Joint Board has no power. Mr. Orchard discussed this issue with Mr. Braslow and the Township Administrator who will try to amend the ordinance to provide more powers.
- Commissioners Tarnowski and Rosenberg also attended.
- The next meeting will be in August.
- District 2 agreed to fund 4 inspectors, even though the other districts agreed to fund 5. It was noted that no one has requested the budgeted monies.
- Mr. Laird reported that Paul Morello is now doing inspections.

*Insurance* - all policies are paid up.

*Station 23* – already discussed. This topic will be removed from the agenda.

**Unfinished Business:**

Rescue Squad – no report.

Rehab Truck – already discussed. This topic will be removed from the agenda.

Truck 224 – Resolution – Mr. Corris will obtain a resolution and also a “hold harmless” letter.

Trailer Resolution - to be completed at July’s meeting.

**New Business:**

Mr. Behrend reported that he had attended a meeting today with people from various County Fire entities, which was sponsored by the Middlesex County Fire Marshall. The thrust of the meeting was that the County is willing to take over fire inspections for municipalities and/or districts and/or independent fire departments. In addition, any municipality in the County can join forces. Mr. Behrend noted that multiple districts within a municipality need not all join. As for compensation, the inspection fees would go to the County, the individual fire organizations would get one-half of the penalties and fines collected from life hazard violations. There would be no cost to the districts.

All inspectors would be State licensed and all investigators would also be State licensed. There will be a 24-hour investigative team available and max response time would normally be an hour or less, but could be longer depending upon how much activity and inspectors.

The Township Administrator indicated he will hold a meeting with all the districts and the Mayor about this issue.

It is hoped to have the system and participants ready by January 2011.

Mr. Behrend stated that, in his opinion, this would seem to be a great benefit to District 1.

**Address From The Public:** none

**Executive Session:** The Board went into Executive 8:10 p.m. to discuss personnel issues; they came out at 8:34 p.m.

**Adjournment:** As there was no further business to discuss, Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Olson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie R. L. Knigge

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