

The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1

In the Township of South Brunswick

Regular Monthly Meeting

July 7, 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 7:01 p.m. by Chairman William Orchard, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call:

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

Members absent: Commissioner Olson

Flag Salute: completed

Agenda Changes: none

Address From the Public: no public present.

Approval of June Meeting Minutes: Mr. Behrend requested some changes to his report under New Business. The first two paragraphs were changed as follows:

Mr. Behrend reported that he had attended a meeting today, June 2nd, 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 join. As for compensation, the inspection fees would go to the County, in 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 licenses. 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 takes place and inspectors.

The rest of his report stayed the same, therefore, Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Mr. Tarnowski seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Reports:

Line Activities – Asst. Chief Murnieks presented the report in Chief Perez’s absence.

He reported that there were 20 total events with a 9.3 average firefighters per events. Of the total events, 15 were fire calls. He noted it was a quiet month.

Mr. Rosenberg questioned whether the Chief and Asst. Chief had decided how working firefighters’ participation would be handled. The Asst. Chief indicated that these will be dealt with on a case by case basis and it would include the opportunity to attend a drill in the other two districts, if that fits into a firefighter’s schedule better.

President – not present.

Treasurer’s Report/Voucher List – file copy attached. Mr. Rosenberg reported that the Absolute voucher was quite large due to the purchase of low-pressure nozzles. In addition, payment of \$8K is being made for repairs to Truck 225, excluding the governor. It was decided to fix it, as it would be too costly. Mr. Orchard stated that he would appreciate that all Commissioners be informed of any upcoming large expenditures.

Mr. Rosenberg questioned the status of firefighter physicals. The Asst. Chief stated that about half of the Company has been completed. Mr. Corris stated that the same rate is being charged for each of the two classes. Mr. Murnieks stated that the flat rate being used, takes into consideration the difference between the A and C class tests.

As there were no further questions regarding Mr. Rosenberg’s reports, therefore, Mr. Behrend made a motion to approve the Voucher List and Mr. Tarnowski seconded it. A vote was taken and passed.

Secretary’s Report – no reports.

Fire Coordinator – Mr. Corris presented his report (file copy attached). Highlighted items were:

- Offer the Company’s old hose to Helmetta Fire Company, instead of putting on govdeals. A Hold Harmless Letter will be required. The Commissioners agreed.
- There was a brush fire at Station 23 and the Asst. Chief suggested that the trees be trimmed behind the Station, as kids are using them for all sorts of questionable activity. The Board agreed to have Mr. Corris trim the trees and if problems still persist, then revisit this issue at a later date.
- While Truck 221 is at Absolute for annual p.m., the new solid steps will be installed. The cost should be about \$1,100 for two, with minimal labor costs.
- Truck 222 had two new batteries installed.

- Fire Prevention, under new construction, a triangle logo which indicates that the building has a truss roof.
- The spider cracks on the 14 portable radios were replaced. It appears to be a manufacture's default, therefore, there will be no charge.

Chairman - Mr. Orchard reported that the Bid Thresholds for public bidding were raised to \$26K from \$21K. If there is a qualified purchasing agent, the increase is \$36K up from \$29K. Mr. Corris will investigate whether he is considered a qualified purchasing agent.

The County is taking over the Fire Inspections for Middlesex and Dunellen Fire Companies.

Standing Committee Reports –

State Association – Mr. Behrend reported that there are 4 bills under consideration by State lawmakers. They are:

- Moving the District elections to November's general election.
- Have the Fire District elections held on the second Tuesday in May.
- Another possibility to move the District elections to the June primary.
- The last alternative would be the third Tuesday in April, which coincides with the Board of Education elections.

Mr. Behrend stated that there are lobbyists involved in the above issues, however, it does not seem that there is a big hurry for a final decision.

Another issue discussed was about a Local Government Ethics Law which questions whether Fire Commissioners can also hold officer's positions in the Fire Department. Mr. Behrend will investigate this further. Mr. Orchard stated that Mr. Braslow had indicated that, currently, it is allowed.

Mr. Rosenberg will attend the September meeting.

Fire Company Liaison – Mr. Behrend reported that a draft of the next newsletter will be available in the middle of August.

Rescue Squad Liaison – nothing to report.

Public Relations – previously discussed.

State Association – previously discussed.

Joint Board – The next meeting will be on August 18th.

Insurance – nothing to report.

Unfinished Business:

Rescue Truck – The Asst. Chief reported that the Committee will be meeting again shortly, however, at the last meeting in June, the group decided to go in a different direction. The Committee has decided to scale back the pumping capacity to make more room for the equipment that needs to be carried. The Committee is discussing the possibility of adding a Cascade System which allows air paks to be filled at the incident site. The cost is considerable and the System takes up a lot of space on a truck. Mr. Orchard stated there would be a significant time savings, however, the cost may be prohibitive. It was noted that Kingston does have a mobile filling system and they would assist Kendall Park, if asked to. The Committee would like the District's approval to make the vehicle a rescue truck with a smaller size pump and the tank; not an engine with some rescue capabilities. Mr. Murnieks explained some of the other features they like to include.

Mr. Rosenberg stated that he has no problem with the change, however, the Rescue Squad should be informed of the Committee's desires and the reasons for them. Mr. Murnieks agreed; he'll discuss the issue with the Chief and set up a meeting with the Squad's officers.

This new vehicle will replace Truck 225. Mr. Orchard noted that the Ladder Truck is a pumper also.

The Commissioners were canvassed and agreed with the change the Committee wants to take.

Trailer Resolution– Resolution 10/11 – 12, Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property was read into the record (file copy attached). The resolution was to dispose of the 2000 Deande Utility Trailer. Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to accept the resolution and Mr. Behrend seconded it. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Tarnowski-yes; Mr. Behrend-yes; and Mr. Orchard-yes and Mr. Rosenberg-yes. Mr. Olson was absent. The resolution passed unanimously.

New Business:

I Am Responding - There was a discussion about whether this program had been paid for it was stated that it was not, however, it will be taken care of at next month's meeting. There was general consensus that the program was working well, except for a lack of compliance by some personnel.

Academy Training – Mr. Orchard read a formula to be applied for reimbursement gas mileage for firefighters attending training at the Fire Academy. Commissioners were given a copy and a brief discussion ensued. Part of the discussion centered on having a new firefighter using the Company pick-up truck to attend training at the academy, instead of paying mileage. It was decided to table this issue until next month's meeting, when Chief Perez will be present.

Disposal of Hummer – Resolution 10/11-13 – Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property was read (file copy attached). The property in question was the 1995 AMC Hummer, which will be sold through the GovDeals auction site. Mr. Behrend made a motion to accept the resolution and Mr. Rosenberg seconded it. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Tarnowski-yes; Mr. Behrend-yes; Mr. Rosenberg-yes and Mr. Orchard-yes. Mr. Olson was absent. The resolution passed unanimously.

Mr. Corris stated that the radios must be removed and the lettering taken off. He is currently working on this. He noted that a decision must be made as to where to list it; definitely under Fire Equipment but possibly also under All Vehicles. If it goes under All Vehicles, then the general public can bid on it, which might be beneficial. As for the length of time it will be open to bid, 3 or 4 weeks seems appropriate. Mr. Corris stated he hopes to have everything ready to go by next month's meeting, including the pricing.

Executive Session: The Board went into Executive Session at 8:24 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. They came out at 8:46 p.m.

Address From The Public: none

Adjournment: As there was no further business to discuss, Mr. Tarnowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie R. L. Knigge

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