

The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1

In the Township of South Brunswick

Regular Monthly Meeting

October 6, 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 Rosenberg, Tarnowski, Olson and Orchard.

Members absent: Commissioner Behrend

**Flag Salute:** completed

**Agenda Changes:** Discussion about the 2011 Budget was added under the Treasurer's Report.

**Address From The Public:** none

**Approval of the September Regular Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Olson requested that on Page 3, under the Joint Board report that following to be added:

"Fire Inspectors will take over the sub-codes," was changed to "It was rumored that Fire Inspectors will take over the sub-codes."

Mr. Tarnowski made a motion to accept the minutes as amended and Mr. Olson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

**Reports:**

Line Activities – Chief Perez presented his report as follows:

- Stats for September: Calls – 25; Drill – 2; and Work-nites – 2 for a total of 29 events. Year-to-date there were 216 total events.
- The County requested that the Fire Company do two cover assignments; one in Perth Amboy and the other in Plainsboro. It was a good experience.
- Fire Prevention Week begins this week and the Company will be visiting the schools. In addition, the Open House will be on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 4 p.m.

- Mr. Laird had informed the Chief that the Fire Prevention Bureau would not be participating in the Open House, due to budgetary and overtime issues. Chief Perez suggested that he re-think the decision, as did others. Mr. Laird, subsequently, reversed the decision and agreed to participate.
- Three proposals were received for the New Road Building Project and a preliminary decision on the contractor has been made. At this Friday's Fire Company meeting, the members will be asked to vote on the choice. The Chief noted that the contractor of choice was the lowest bidder and has, in the past, done work for the Company.
- There have been a number of permit fees and other unforeseen costs that the Chief has been working with the Mayor to get reduced or reimbursed for. The Chief will address other related issues under Executive Session.
- There have been no changes in membership.

President – no report.

Secretary – no report.

Fire Coordinator – Mr. Corris presented his report (file copy attached). An additional comment was that a partial listing of the Fire Safety Schedule will be posted.

There was a brief discussion about the need for a lock upstairs; it was decided it was not needed, as all the filing cabinets are always locked.

Mr. Orchard suggested that a quote be obtained from Progressive Landscaping to remove a dead pine tree and also trim the good ones up, in order to "open" up the area. The Commissioners agreed.

Chairman – nothing to report.

Standing Committee Reports –

*Fire Company Liaison* - no report, as Mr. Behrend was absent.

*Rescue Squad Liaison* – no report.

*Public Relations* – The Newsletter was mailed and should be received this week.

*State Association* – Mr. Rosenberg attended and reported that Mr. Harry Carter will continue as President. In addition, the By-Laws were changed to reflected that the yearly meeting will now be in June, instead of September. The reason for this change was not made known.

It was reported at the meeting that 2011 Budgets are due to DCS by 12/22, therefore, the Board must have its final version ready at the December meeting. Mr. Rosenberg noted that 2% is cut and dried. The next meeting will be in December at Monmouth Junction.

Treasurer's Report/Voucher List –

Mr. Rosenberg stated that there are a number of vouchers to be paid this month, including the \$63K payment to Bank of America for ownership of Truck 222. He noted that the 2010 Budget is doing fairly well, except Elections and Dues/Subscriptions are over and that the grant money has been received.

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

*2011 Budget Discussion:* Mr. Rosenberg opened the discussion with a comment on District 1 joining with District 2 of Franklin in utilizing their Mobile Traffic Control Unit on Route 27. This allows fire apparatus to be able to change traffic signals upon approach. Chief Perez had indicated to Mr. Rosenberg that Route 1 is where the real need is for District 1. The Chief has contacted the DOT and they were in agreement, but only at a few intersections (Henderson Road, New Road and Sand Hills Road). Mr. Rosenberg received a quote of \$42,120 from Signal Control Products for the Mobile Unit itself, along with the emitters for the vehicles and installation. He noted that this would still need to go out for bid, as the amount is over the bid threshold. Money is available from the 2010 Budget, which could be used to purchase the Unit. Chief Perez reported that there are discussions going on between the other two districts and he will be looking to see if they would like to join and split the cost. Mr. Orchard suggested tabling this issue and continuing the discussion in Executive Session.

Mr. Rosenberg distributed copies of the first draft of the 2011 Budget (file copy attached). He stated that the Fire Company's budget will not change. As for the Chief's budget, Mr. Rosenberg made it \$40K, which Chief Perez needs to match against his needs. Mr. Rosenberg reviewed the budget with the Commissioners and explained his rationale for the amounts listed. Based upon a Cash Infusion of \$173,571 and other financials, the Total Amount to be Raised by Taxation would be \$776,329.00, which is exactly the amount allowed by the 2% cap. The tax rate would go from .079 to .0805. Mr. Rosenberg noted that some things may need to be adjusted.

Chief Perez suggested that Hose Testing be increased to \$6K, otherwise, he is comfortable that Mr. Rosenberg's budget numbers, against his. The Chief noted that 6 Air Paks and 6 Bottles will be needed for the new truck, but this will be handled as a capital purchase. The cost should be about \$48K. Mr. Rosenberg stated that he did not think there would be a problem getting the funds to purchase the Air Paks.

The Commissioners decided to discuss the budget again at next month's meeting and, if necessary, schedule a Work Session.

*Joint Board* – The next meeting will be November 17<sup>th</sup> at Mon. Jct. Mr. Corris will contact Mr. Doug Wolf to set things up for the meeting.

*Insurance* – Mr. Orchard reported that Workman's Comp has been paid and the new policy received. The Board agreed to continue with Bollinger and it was noted, that their rates will stay the same.

**Unfinished Business:**

Rescue Truck - Asst. Chief Murnieks reported that the Committee is looking to go out for bid on the truck, the first week in November and noted that the bid must be out for 20 business days. Upon receiving the bids, it will take one or two weeks to review them and forward the accepted bid to the Board, for their approval. This timeline will require that the Board have the bid ready to go by the last week in October. The resolution to go out to bid will be presented at the regular monthly meeting in November. It is hoped to have the entire process completed by the end of the year. The Asst. Chief noted that the Committee will begin working on the equipment needed on the apparatus. Their next meeting will be October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Truck 224/GovDeals – already discussed under the Fire Coordinator's Report.

**New Business:** Salary Resolution – Mr. Behrend will present the resolution at next month's meeting.

**Executive Session:** The Board went into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss Firematic issues. They came out at 8:30 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. Tarnowski seconded it. A vote was taken and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie R. L. Knigge

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