

The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1

In the Township of South Brunswick

Regular Monthly Meeting

November 3, 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 7:04 p.m. by Chairman William Orchard, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call:

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

Members absent: none

Flag Salute: completed

Agenda Changes: Three resolutions will be presented.

Address From the Public: none

Approval of October Meeting Minutes: Mr. Tarnowski made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Behrend seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed to accept the minutes.

Reports:

President – not present.

Treasurer's Report/Voucher List – Mr. Rosenberg presented his report (file copy attached) and reported that there were a number of large payments for the month. They were Bollinger (annual insurance premiums), Wolfcat Productions (newsletter) and GovDeals (sale of Hummer). The Commissioners reviewed the Voucher List, after which Mr. Olson made a motion to approve the List as presented and Mr. Behrend seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Line Activities – Chief Perez presented his report (file copy attached). He reported that the October statistics included 24 Total Calls, 2 Total Drills and 10 Total Duty Activities. He noted that the Open House and Fire Prevention trips to the schools, helped push up the number of activities. Year-to-date statistics were: Total Calls of 240, for a Total ManHour's of 2,422; 24 Total Drill for a Total ManHour's of 712 and Total Duty of 35, with 901 Total ManHour's. The Chief stated that it has been a busy year and with two months to go, it will prove to be busier than last year.

The Chief also reported the following:

- This year's Open House went well, however, it did not seem to have the attendance as in past years.
- The Fire Company will attend a live burn at Mercer County Fire Academy on the 7th. Mon. Jct. and Kingston will cover.
- The Fire Company has signed a contract with the new building contractor. They have met with the contractor and the architect and developed "to-do" lists. The latest target date to begin construction is December 1st.

Secretary – no report.

Fire Coordinator- Mr. Corris presented his report (file copy attached). He noted that Truck 221 will be getting a laptop, however, it will obstruct the Vehicle Instrument Center (VIC). He and the Chief had a brief discussion and it was suggested using the existing monitor, along with the new laptop's monitor. This will be investigated to see if it is possible.

Mr. Orchard requested that multiple quotes be received for the new tires for Truck 227.

Chairman – Mr. Orchard reported that the Township Administrator, Matt Watkins, is now hedging on the use of County Fire Inspectors; they may stay with the current inspectors. It was noted that the Mayor had hinted that the Districts may need to provide some sort of funding. Mr. Orchard stated that by using the County Fire Inspectors, there is no cost to Township taxpayers, which makes the decision very easy.

Standing Committee Reports –

Fire Company Liaison – Mr. Behrend stated that positive comments were received about the latest Newsletter and Mr. Orchard stated that the Board agreed it was a very good publication.

Rescue Squad Liaison – nothing to report.

Public Relations – Mr. Behrend reported that he had responded to a District resident's concern that in an article discussing dryer safety, nothing was included about dryer sheets leaving a residue that could affect the dryer filters and their air flow. Mr. Behrend investigated this issue and found that there is no serious fire threat. He will contact the resident and explain his findings. Chief Perez suggested that the Spring Newsletter include information on mulch safety.

State Association – the next meeting will be December 4th at Monmouth Junction.

Joint Board – the next meeting will be on November 17th, also at Monmouth Junction.

Insurance- It was reported that all insurance cards are in the vehicles.

Unfinished Business:

Rescue Truck: Resolution to Go to Bid: Mr. Olson read Resolution 10/11-15 – Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for Rescue Pumper Fire Apparatus (file copy attached). Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to accept the resolution and Mr. Behrend seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Rosenberg-yes; Mr. Olson-yes; Mr. Tarnowski-yes; Mr. Behrend-yes and Mr. Orchard-yes. The resolution passed unanimously.

Salary Resolution – this will be done under Executive Session.

2011 Budget – Mr. Rosenberg presented the next draft of the 2011 Budget (file copy attached). Mr. Rosenberg stated that he had received information that the ratable went down about 2%, which equates to a \$17K reduction. He noted that the amount can be infused or line items will need to be reduced. In addition, monies are going to be needed for three Air Paks and six Bottles (about \$22K) and monies to equip the new Rescue Pumper. The Board discussed line items that could be reduced, Public Relations was reduced to \$15K and the Commissioners raise was questioned. Based on the existing situation, the tax rate would be 8.6 cents which is up from last year's 7.9 amount. For a \$250K home, the impact would be \$4.00 for the entire year.

The Board discussed the feasibility of not raising the tax at all and it was decided that would not be a prudent course of action. In order to finalize the budget, a Work Session was scheduled for November 16th at 7 p.m. at the Firehouse.

New Business:

Resolution 10/11-16: Mr. Olson read the resolution – Authorizing Amendment of Fire Protection Agreement and Lease Agreement (file copy attached). Mr. Rosenberg moved the resolution and Mr. Tarnowski seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Rosenberg-yes; Mr. Olson-yes; Mr. Behrend-yes; Mr. Tarnowski-yes and Mr. Orchard-yes. The resolution was passed unanimously.

Resolution 10/11-17: Mr. Olson read the resolution – Authorizing Disposal of Personal Property (file copy attached). This resolution related to the donation of brush firefighting bunker gear. Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to accept the resolution and Mr. Tarnowski seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Rosenberg-yes; Mr. Olson-yes; Mr. Behrend-yes; Mr. Tarnowski-yes and Mr. Orchard-yes. The resolution passed unanimously.

Jackets – Mr. Rosenberg suggested that the Board members purchase polo shirts and jackets to be worn by all Commissioners when attending the various District related meetings. The cost would be about \$130 pp and would have the District logo on it. The Commissioners agreed.

Executive Session: The Board decided to discuss Ex. Session issues at the upcoming Work Session, as a fire call was received.

Address From the Public: none

Adjournment: As there was no further business to discuss, Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Tarnowski seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie R. L. Knigge

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