

MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
HOPEWELL BOROUGH DISTRICT NO.1
OCTOBER 14, 2015

PRESENT: Cmsr. Morehouse

Cmsr. Myers

Cmsr. Bovenizer

Cmsr. Evans

Cmsr. Anderson

Minutes: September 9, 2015

Motioned by Commissioner Myers and seconded by Commissioner Evans to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed with no absences.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Treasurer's Report:

A copy of the treasurer's report was made available to each commissioner with a list and description of the bills to be paid. The Chief Financial Officer previously certified that there were sufficient unencumbered funds in the 2015 budget to pay the bills and designated the account to which each would be charged.

1. Bills were submitted to be paid from the 2015 budget in the amount of \$17,740.88 for a total of \$17,740.88. Motioned by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Bovenizer to pay the bills as submitted with a roll call vote, and with one abstention for one bill which was Commissioner Myers for his

reimbursement of \$40.78.

Ladies Auxiliary-

The nominating committee was formed and nominations will be presented in November for the vote in December. A new Vice President will have to be elected as the current Vice President will not be running due to health problems. On October 21st the Mercer County Ladies Auxiliary will have their annual dinner.

EMU Chief Report:

There were 21 calls in September with 10 calls in Hopewell Borough, 9 calls in Hopewell Township and one scratch. Chief Morehouse emailed the representatives from Cardiac Science to obtain a new quote for fewer AED's and they have not been responsive to the email. Due to this issue Chief Morehouse may go with Life Packs. A question was raised as to whether or not the AED's need to be replaced. The AED's need to be updated but the EMU can get by with the current AED's if necessary. If there is a need and money in the budget it was recommended that Chief Morehouse get updated quotes to present at the next meeting and go ahead with the purchase of new AED's. It was then mentioned that Commissioner Myers was going to attend the First Aid Council Convention and there are often vendors there who can provide a lower price for items. If the vendors from Life Pack were there it might be possible for Commissioner Myers to purchase the AED's for a discounted price. It was motioned by Commissioner Bovenizer and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to authorize Commissioner Myers to purchase as many Life Pack 1000 AED's he could get with the price of each AED not to exceed \$1200.00. Motion was unanimously carried and Commissioner Myers was given a purchase order.

Fire Chief Report:—There were 20 calls in September with no calls in East Amwell. In October there have been 2 significant fires. One

fire was on Van Dyke Road which involved an ATV, a Camero, and a garage fire. There was a crew in quarters and the Quint got on the road immediately and the crew was able to get a good lead on the fire. All the trucks from the firehouse responded to the fire and it was extinguished in a timely manner. There was also a 3 story barn fire on Pennington Harbourton Road which burned to the ground.

91,000 gallons of water were used on the fire with three different counties helping to extinguish the fire. The Harvest Fair went well but it was discussed that perhaps next year in lieu of cooking, demonstrations could be made concerning fire related activities such as cutting apart a car. There was an open house at Hopewell Township for Fire Prevention and about 200 people attended. The tool room is almost completed and the trailer is gone from the parking lot. The Commissioners office is also being worked on and should be complete soon. The new server for the firehouse is up and running. The Engine is going out for repairs for the damage to the compartment door. Before going out of service the Engine was loaned out to Station 20 to provide coverage for the County parade. The portable radios should be ready for sale within the next two weeks. Foam needs to be reordered also.

LOSAP

There are 12 non vested inactive members enrolled in the LOSAP program. Commissioner Anderson is in the process of composing a certified letter to each of the 12 members asking if they have intentions of coming back to the fire company as an active member.

If the members do not have any intention on coming back, steps need to be taken to recover the funds in the inactive members' accounts.

Fire Official Report: On file and a copy was provided to the Commissioners.

Attorney Report: Attorney Griswold presented a draft of a contract for services with East Amwell . The Commissioners were asked to review the document and submit any changes to Attorney Griswold.

Committee Reports: None

Resolution 2015-22

On a motion by Commissioner Anderson and a second by Commissioner Bovenizer, the Board passed the resolution unanimously. This resolution regarded joining the Houston Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Group for the projected purchase of a new rescue truck in 2017.

Closed session:

On a motion by Commissioner Bovenizer and seconded by Commissioner Anderson, it was unanimously voted to go into closed session with Resolution 2015-23, pursuant to NJSA 10:4-12(b). A member's LOSAP withdrawal request, involving individual privacy issues, to be discussed in closed session. The matters discussed will be made public if and when confidentiality is no longer required and action pursuant to said discussion shall take place only at a meeting open to the public.

Motioned by Commissioner Myers and seconded by Commissioner Evans to come out of closed session. Motion unanimously passed.

Open session resumed.

LOSAP withdrawal procedures were discussed. A question arose as to when a vested member is seeking to discontinue his participation in the LOSAP program and withdraw in full his funds in the program, whether that member must also resign from the fire department – with the fire department then notifying the LOSAP Plan Administrator of the resignation as a prerequisite to the Plan Administrator signing the LOSAP Distribution request form. Research will be done to determine the proper procedure.

Special Meeting and Vote of Taxpayers:

The board intends to refurbish the lighting system and other elements of a 1998 ambulance during 2016 at a cost not to exceed \$18,000.00. It also proposes to purchase of new Hurst extrication tools for use at emergency scenes, as well as to refurbish older extrication tools already owned by the fire district at a total cost not to exceed \$32,000.00. A special meeting and special vote of taxpayers is in order to authorize including these purchases as capital outlays in the

2016 budget.

On a motion by Commissioner Morehouse and second by Commissioner Bovenizer the Board unanimously approved holding a special vote of taxpayers of the fire district to be held at a meeting on November 4, 2015, at 7:30 pm at the Hopewell Fire Department firehouse at 4 Columbia Avenue, Hopewell, NJ, at which voters will be asked for approval to refurbish the ambulance lighting system (\$18,000.00) and purchase and refurbish Hurst extrication tools (\$32,000.00), to include the foregoing expenses in the capital outlay section of the fire district's 2016 budget, and to raise funds in the budget to pay for these projects. Voters will be able to cast their votes between 7:30 and 9:00 pm by ballot provided at the meeting.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board, on a motion by Cmsr. Anderson and seconded by Cmsr. Evans unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 9:18. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on November 4, 2015.