

MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
HOPEWELL BOROUGH DISTRICT NO.1

July 12, 2017

PRESENT: Cmsr. Morehouse
Cmsr. Bovenizer
Cmsr. Davies
Cmsr. Evans
Cmsr. Myers

ABSENT:

Call to Order: The scheduled meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 7:36pm by Chairman Morehouse following proof of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was given through the Annual Meeting Notice and was filed with the municipal clerk, posted at the municipal building, the board's office, the fire district website, and advertised in the official newspapers of the district as required by law.

Minutes:

Motioned by Commissioner Myers and seconded by Commissioner Davies to approve the open and closed session meeting minutes of April 12, 2017. Motion passed with two abstentions.

Motioned by Commissioner Bovenizer and seconded by Commissioner Evans to approve the meeting minutes from June 14, 2017. Motion passed with one abstention.

Motioned by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Davies to approve the open and closed meeting minutes from June 28, 2017. Motion passed with two abstentions.

Closed session meeting minutes will be released if and when the confidentiality of the matters discussed is no longer required to protect matters encompassed within attorney-client privilege, to comply with contract or settlement terms, or no longer involve an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Treasurer's Report: Resolution 17-26

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 encumbered funds in the 2017 budget to pay the bills and designated the account to which each would be charged.

1. Bills were submitted to be paid from the 2017 budget of \$34,732.35 including an insurance payment to AmeriHealth on June 28, 2017 for \$3,484.60, for a total of \$38,216.95. Motioned by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Myers to pay the bills as submitted with a roll call vote.
2. The list of encumbrances from the 2017 budget was given to the Board for review.

The impact of the ladder incident on insurance was discussed. The incident will not impact the experience factor in 2018, but it will impact the 2019, 2020, and 2021 experience factor. There is a possibility the insurance payment will go up \$1500.00 which does not include the yearly increase. The number of LOSAP participants has increased so the insurance premium will increase. There may be an increase this year if an audit is performed. The current workers compensation company may decide to drop the Board's policy and the Board may have to go back to the state's program which would increase the 2018 budget by at least \$10,000.00 over and above the usual yearly rate increase. Other options may have to be explored. The Board emphasized the need for the fire department to be as safe as possible in order to not have any further injuries.

The Rescue truck payments were discussed. The plan going forward is to continue to build the payments into the budget and what isn't used will be rolled over into the next year. The funds for the down payment will be encumbered in 2017 and the payment will be made in 2018 upon receipt of the truck. The amount of the lease will be \$90,000 less with the down payment.

Hopewell Fire Department Administration:

The building is coming along. There is a leak in the ambulance bay so that part of the roof may need to be replaced. There is also an ongoing discussion about adding on an addition to the radio room.

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary are not meeting until September.

EMU Chief Report:--There were 38 calls for the month of June with 3 scratches. There are several EMT's who will be leaving in September for college. Also some of more seasoned EMT's certifications are expiring at the end of the year and it is uncertain how many will seek recertification. There is a need for more volunteers, and especially for evening drivers.

Fire Chief Report:— There were 23 fire calls for the month of June. There was a fire in a 3000 square foot house with no hydrants but the fire companies were able to sustain a water supply without losing any water. The pond at Pennytown is no longer an option for drafting. The stand pipe at Stony Brook had to be utilized for the fire. There were 18 members who responded from Hopewell Fire Department and two cats were saved as well as a valuable stamp collection. There will be only low impact training until the heat of the summer breaks. In the event of a hot emergency the Special Services vehicle has a mist fan and water on board. A tanker drill will be conducted at Hopewell Elementary School and the school will receive an email regarding the drill.

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

Committee Reports—There was no report regarding insurance.

LOSAP—The statements from Lincoln Financial Services recently sent to volunteers reflected only Hopewell Borough's portion of the 2016 contribution. The Township should be submitting their portion at their next meeting and another statement should be mailed to members. Commissioner Davies received 2 requests from members to withdrawal funds from their accounts. One request was signed and one is still pending.

Resolution 17-27 On a motion by Commissioner Bovenizer and seconded by Commissioner Evans the resolution was passed to go into closed session. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board, on a motion by Cmsr. Bovenizer and seconded by Cmsr. Evans and approved the meeting adjourned at 9:23. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on August 9, 2017.

