

**MEETING MINUTES**

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

**HOPEWELL BOROUGH DISTRICT NO.1**

**April 10, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Cmsr. Morehouse Cmsr. Evans  
Cmsr. Myers Cmsr. Davies  
Cmsr. Blasi

**Call to Order:** The scheduled meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 7:08 pm by Chairman Morehouse following proof of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice 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:**

Commissioners reviewed March minutes and with a motion by Commissioner Myers and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Blasi the motion passes 5-0 with all in favor.

**Public Comment:** Chairman Morehouse spoke about recent discussion at the Boro Council meeting referencing the Boro’s water system and fire hydrant fees being charged.

**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 certified that there were sufficient funds in the encumbered 2023 budget and the 2024 budget to pay the bills and designated the account to which each would be charged.

Bills were submitted to be paid from the 2023 budget in the amount of \$29,438.55 and \$27,295.73 from 2024 budget for a total of \$56,734.28. Motioned by Commissioner Davies and seconded by Commissioner Myers to pay the bills as submitted with a roll call vote all in the affirmative passing via majority. Resolution 2024-19 passed 5-0.

**Fire Department Administration:** President Scalice noted the Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> from 8-12. This will coincide with Handmade Hopewell which was done last year with great turnout. Membership is looking into building expansion, however currently the bunk room is on hold.

**Ladies Aux:** No report

**EMU Report:**

Chief Read advised 52 calls for March; Princeton University student will be interning for squad. Will be participating in the spring cleanup on Rt 31. Lacrosse game will be held on 4/27 to honor 9-1-1 responders. One FF to attend EMT class. Will be helping 153 while they re-chassis their oldest ambulance by lending 152-2 to them. The Township Board has expressed a possibility of funding a re-chassis of 152-2 after 153's is completed.

Chairman Morehouse mentioned he would like to start working on the 2025 budget. Discussed how the funding ratio needs to change in the next contract. Would like to possibly schedule to meet on our work session date of 5/22/24.

**Fire Chief Report:**

Chief Galatro reports 25 calls for March. 2 Working fires, fully involved no water in area but was able to mainly extinguish with tank water, tankers and drafting from a nearby stream. Rescue will be getting fixed in the coming weeks, estimate of damages \$19,038.00. Check has been received from insurance company minus the \$500 deductible. Tanker was found to have a broken rear brake shoe, could be a \$4,000 repair. Looking to get additional quotes for annual truck maintenance and bid it for multiple years. Resolutions tonight for purchases of new airbags and gear. Working on an adopt a hydrant program. HBPW will provide paint to residents if they are willing to maintain them. Next month expect to purchase about \$9,000 in rope rescue equipment via resolution. Will be buying monitors for engine bays for drivers and officers to be able to see incoming members on IAR. The SS will be reorganized in the coming weeks to gear it more towards a specialty rescue vehicle. Will be investigating the installation of a hitch receiver in order to be able to tow boat. Fire Alarm system is nearing completion. The drawings have been signed and sealed and were turned into the inspectors for the permit.

**Fire Official Report:** on file

**Attorney Report:** Financial disclosure forms are due by 4/30/2024.

**Committee Reports:**

Commissioner Davies mentioned that we are waiting for the groupnet from Lincoln to make the payment.

Resolution 2024-20 – Motion by Csmr. Blasi, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Csmr. Davies all in favor motion passes 5-0.

Resolution 2024-21 - Motion by Csmr. Blasi, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Csmr. Davies all in favor motion passes 5-0.

Resolution 2024-22 - Motion by Csmr. Myers, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Csmr. Evans all in favor motion passes 5-0.

Chief Read states the State EMS Licensing is progressing, just needs to have the back of the Ambulance 152-3 re-lettered.

**Public Comment (non-agenda):** None

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the board, on a motion by Cmsr. Myers and seconded by Cmsr. Blasi unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on May 8, 2024.