

October 17, 2019 Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners

District #3 in the Township of Hanover

County of Morris, Cedar Knolls, New Jersey

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on October 17, 2019 in accordance with the Public Meeting Act of 1975, Chapter 231.

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Robert Callas, Peter DeNigris, Robert O'Hare, and Thomas Quirk were present. Commissioner Michael Dugan was absent. Commissioner Quirk noted that Commissioner Dugan may show up later.

Fire Asst. Chief Martin, Lt. Belott, and FF Ujfalussy were also in attendance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Commissioner Quirk reported that Mrs. Brennan from Recreation inquired about the Fire Co. participating in the Masquerade at Malapardis Park this Halloween. Commissioner Quirk asked if anyone knew if it was discussed at the last Fire Co. meeting. Commissioner O'Hare reported that it had not been discussed. Commissioner Quirk reported that he would reach out to James Hark, Jr. about donating candy again this year. Commissioner O'Hare noted that Shirley Bergen would be the contact.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes from the October 3, 2019 Regular Meeting were reviewed.

Amendments to Previous Minutes: None.

Commissioner DeNigris made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner O'Hare seconded the motion. All were in favor. Commissioner Dugan was absent.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: Commissioner DeNigris distributed the YTD September 2019 financial reports. Commissioner DeNigris that the usual accounts are still over budget but that the District is on budget overall. Commissioner DeNigris advised the Board to watch their spending through the remainder of the year until more is known about potential required spending to fix Engine 34.

Commissioner DeNigris reported that the 2020 Budget process has been started and that he will discuss more about it in closed session.

Commissioner Callas made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report, seconded by Commissioner O'Hare. All were in favor. Commissioner Dugan was absent.

Report of Fire Commissioner Board Committees and Chief of Department:

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief DiGiorgio distributed his Bi-Monthly Report on October 14, 2019. Commissioner Quirk asked if anyone had any questions on the report. There were no questions. Commissioner Quirk asked Asst. Chief Martin if he had anything to add to the Chief's Report. Asst. Chief Martin reported that the District responded to two fires in roughly 14 hours this past Friday. Asst. Chief Martin reported that one of the fires occurred early in the morning in Morris Township and the second occurred later Friday afternoon in Whippany. Asst. Chief Martin reported that the District did a great job, along with Whippany, in getting water on the fire quickly and keeping it from extending. Commissioner Quirk asked if the second fire was a residential fire. Asst. Chief Martin noted that both fires were residential fires. Commissioner DeNigris asked what the next step in the process would be if a fire looked suspicious for any reason. Asst. Chief Martin reported that if it was in our jurisdiction, the District would coordinate with the police

EMS: Nothing to report.

BUDGET: Commissioner DeNigris reported that the 2020 budget process has been started. Commissioner DeNigris reported that the District will probably not get the new tax number until the tax accessor closes out on January 10, 2020 and the District may have to use an estimate. Commissioner DeNigris felt that the tax number will not be much more than last year, perhaps increasing by about \$30,000.

PERSONNEL: Commissioner Quirk asked for a closed session.

NEGOTIATIONS: Commissioner Quirk asked if the discussion about the drug policy that was brought up during the last contract negotiation with the FMBA was ever resolved. Lt. Belott reported that there were a couple of meetings after the contract was signed, but the issue kept getting tabled because of other things that were going on. Commissioner Quirk asked which commissioners were on the

committee now. Commissioner Callas reported that he was on the committee. Commissioner Quirk noted that if he is not on the committee, he would like to be part of resolving this issue since he helped negotiate the last contract. Commissioner Quirk reported that there was on part of the drug policy that he felt strongly about and would like to see settled. Lt. Belott suggested that a meeting date be set between himself, Lt. McGuinness, and Commissioners Callas and Quirk.

LIAISON TO THE VOLUNTEERS: Nothing to report.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Commissioner O'Hare reported that the bay floor contractor is attending to the little outstanding items on the project.

Commissioner O'Hare reported that the area in front lawn that the grubs had gotten has been seeded.

Commissioner O'Hare asked Lt. Belott if the water softener had been hooked up yet. Lt. Belott reported that the contractor is getting some longer hoses to allow the unit to be installed vertically, which would save some space. Lt. Belott estimated that the installation would be completed early next week.

APPARATUS/EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE: Commissioner Quirk reported that the Board had copies of the memo that Lt. Belott had sent to Chief DiGiorgio. Lt. Belott reported that after he had received the email from Fire & Safety with the status of the Engine 34 pump issue, he called down and spoke to the head of their service department. Lt. Belott reported the service department indicated that this was an issue that Fire & Safety had seen a handful of times. The service department head felt that a bearing went and destroyed the gears within the pump. Lt. Belott reported that the District has one of the first of the new model pumps and Fire & Safety has never had to totally disassemble the engine to work on one of the new model pumps. Lt. Belott reported that Fire & Safety has therefore ruled out repairing the pump. Lt. Belott reported that it would be a three week turnaround time from when the Board approves the pump replacement project because it needs to be sent from Wisconsin and have some custom adjustments before going to Fire & Safety for installation. Lt. Belott reported that then it would be about 100 hours of labor to install the pump. Lt. Belott indicated that Pierce was aware of the issue since this was the first time the failure occurred in this type of engine and is watching over the project. Lt.

Belott reported that Pierce has a third party agency that helps offset the cost of out of warranty repairs so the Fire & Safety service representative said that the repairs estimate may be a lot less. Commissioner DeNigris asked if the repair job would be guaranteed for any length of time. Lt. Belott felt that the new pump would come with a new warranty and that the old pump had a five year warranty so the new one should have the same warranty. Lt. Belott noted that the engine itself is not under warranty and did not know how that would play out.

Commissioner DeNigris noted that the last payment on the engine was made in January 2019 and wondered if the warranty would extend to the end of the year in which the last payment was made. Asst. Chief Martin felt that the warranty expired six or ten months ago and is not based on the payment schedule but on when you take possession. Lt. Belott hopes that once they take everything apart, they will be able to tell what piece failed and that he does not feel that it was anything that either the District personnel did or the UL tester did. Commissioner O'Hare asked if the three week delivery clock starts tomorrow if the Board approves moving forward tonight. Lt. Belott confirmed that if he calls Fire & Safety with the approval tomorrow, they will place that order and in three weeks the pump will be delivered to Fire & Safety. Lt. Belott noted that then there would be the 100 hours of labor to install it. Commissioner Quirk reported that Administrator Schultz has contacted Mr. Braslow to research warranties to get the best deal possible. Commissioner Quirk reported that he spoke with Chief DiGiorgio who said that the 100 hours of labor for installation was the top amount and it could be significantly fewer hours. Commissioner Quirk noted that this was still a lot of money to put out and that Mr. Braslow recommended that the Board make a motion to approve the expenditure to repair the engine consistent to Mr. Braslow's advice, which he will get to the Board in writing. Commissioner Quirk noted that if there is a problem budget wise, a qualified purchasing agent can approve doing this outside the budget. Commissioner DeNigris made a motion to authorize expenditure not to exceed \$30,800 to repair the engine. Commissioner Quirk asked what would happen if they need more once the process is started. Commissioner DeNigris said that the Board would need to authorize more then. Commissioner O'Hare seconded the motion. All were in favor. Commissioner Dugan was absent.

Commissioner Callas asked for clarification on Orange not wanting to purchase the old Engine 35. Lt. Belott reported that the Town Counselor for Orange was

concerned about issues due to the age of the engine and declined to purchase. Commissioner O'Hare asked if there was still some interest from a group from Pennsylvania. Lt. Belott reported that he had heard that a party from Pennsylvania was interested but did not know if they had sent a representative to look at the engine. Lt. Belott noted that the engine is currently being utilized by the District and that FIS came and rebuilt 4 valves in the engine.

INSURANCE: Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS: Nothing to report.

BY-LAWS: Nothing to report.

WEBSITE: Commissioner Quirk reported that he is working with the County on a mitigation plan update from 2015. Commissioner Quirk reported that the company that is doing the mitigation plan update informed the Township that they need to advertise the approved 2015 Mitigation Plan to the public. Commissioner Quirk reported that this was done on the Township website and asked if anyone was opposed to putting it on the District website as well. Commissioner Quirk explained that it was just a link to the website that tells the public what mitigation the Township is doing for different problems. Commissioner Quirk noted that the first item listed in the mitigation plan was the relocation of the Whippany Firehouse, which is null and void. Commissioner Quirk noted that the second item was the replacement of the tent cover in our District parking lot. Commissioner Quirk reported that these are just two items on the mitigation plan and that there has been progress on the plan. Commissioner Quirk asked anyone who know of any mitigation projects within the District that we think FEMA would approve to bring them to his attention. Commissioner Quirk asked if anyone was opposed to putting the link to the Mitigation Plan on the District website. No one on the Board was opposed. Commissioner Dugan was absent.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Nothing to report.

LIASON TO EXEMPTS: Nothing to report.

RECORDS RETENTION: Nothing to report.

LIAISON TO HANOVER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE: Commissioner DeNigris reported that an office & warehouse structure is going to be built right next to the

diner on Rt. 10. Commissioner DeNigris reported that Pine Plaza is moving forward with negotiations with the various store owners.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

REMINDERS:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.

The next Joint Fire Prevention Board Meeting will be held on Monday, November 11, 2019 at 6:30 P.M. at the Whippany Firehouse.

The Holiday Tree Lighting will be held on Saturday, November 30, 2019 at 6:15 P.M.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

RESOLUTIONS:

Commissioner Callas read Resolution 19-10-17-81 authorizing a Conditional Offer of Employment for the position of Per Diem EMT be extended to Mark Watkins. Commissioner Quirk made a motion to introduce the resolution, seconded by Commissioner DeNigris. All were in favor. Commissioner Dugan was absent.

Commissioner Callas read Resolution 19-10-17-82 appointing Volunteer Fire Member Elijah Ellis. Commissioner Quirk made a motion to introduce the resolution, seconded by Commissioner O'Hare. All were in favor. Commissioner Dugan was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Callas read Resolution 19-10-17-83 to enter into closed session. Commissioner Callas made a motion to introduce the resolution, seconded by Commissioner DeNigris. All were in favor. Commissioner Dugan was absent. The Board went into closed session at 7:32 P.M.

Personnel matters were discussed. Action will not be taken.

The Board came out of closed session at 8:07 P.M.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Commissioner Callas, seconded by Commissioner O'Hare, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Commissioner Dugan was absent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Robert Callas, Secretary