

January 6, 2022 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 January 6, 2022 in accordance with the Public Meeting Act of 1975, Chapter 231. The Board observed a moment of silence for all those who have given their lives in service of their communities and nation.

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Steven Cornine, Michael Dugan Sr., Michael Dugan Jr., and Robert O'Hare were present. Commissioner Mary Lou DeSimone was absent.

Chief DiGiorgio and Administrator Schultz were also in attendance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes from the December 16, 2021 Regular Meeting were reviewed.

Amendments to Previous Minutes: Commissioner Cornine reported that the minutes indicated that certain Commissioners were absent from the vote on the resolutions when they were in fact present.

Commissioner Dugan Sr. made a motion to approve the amended minutes from the December 16, 2021 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Cornine seconded the motion. All were in favor. Commissioner DeSimone was absent.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER:

Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the District made it through the year and had a little bit of money left to buy a few items. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the District did a good job throughout the year and hopefully will be able to do the same next year.

Report of Fire Commissioner Board Committees and Chief of Department:

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief DiGiorgio distributed his Bi-Monthly report on January 3, 2022.

Chief DiGiorgio updated the Board on the following items:

Chief DiGiorgio reported that his report included the call volume for the month of December as well as the entire year along with comparisons to last year.

Chief DiGiorgio noted that he did not get most of the career division reports due to the holiday but he will have them for the next meeting.

Chief DiGiorgio concluded his report. Commissioner O'Hare asked about a compressor that went out and needed to be replaced. Chief DiGiorgio reported that the station air compressor that is used to fill tires, etc. and also works the exhaust system failed and was replaced.

Commissioner O'Hare asked if anyone had any questions for Chief DiGiorgio. There were no questions.

EMS: Nothing to report.

BUDGET: Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the 2022 Budget has been adopted and thanked everyone who worked on preparing it.

PERSONNEL: Commissioner Cornine reported that he and Commissioner DeSimone received an email that expressed concern that the new hires were working by themselves already. Commissioner Cornine reported that he spoke to Chief DiGiorgio to get his opinion on it and forwarded that to Commissioner DeSimone. Commissioner Cornine reported that he hopes for a final resolution after getting input from Commissioner DeSimone.

NEGOTIATIONS: Nothing to report.

LIAISON TO THE VOLUNTEERS: Nothing to report.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Commissioner O'Hare reported that the compressor issue has already been discussed.

APPARATUS/EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE: Nothing to report.

INSURANCE: Nothing to report.

BY-LAWS: Nothing to report.

WEBSITE: Up to date.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Commissioner Dugan Jr. reported that there is a meeting scheduled for January 11, 2022 to discuss becoming one Fire District. Chief DiGiorgio noted that the meeting is at 7 P.M. and will be held at the Whippany firehouse.

LIASON TO EXEMPTS: Nothing to report.

RECORDS RETENTION: Nothing to report.

LIAISON TO HANOVER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE: Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner O'Hare asked Administrator Schultz for a status on the Alcohol & Drug training. Administrator Schultz reported that he will reach out and see when the training can be scheduled now that the 2022 Budget process is mostly complete. Administrator Schultz reported that the MOA has been forwarded to Lt. McGuinness and hoped that it could be signed at the beginning of next week.

Commissioner O'Hare asked Administrator Schultz if he had sent the Professional Standards document to Mr. Trimboli. Administrator Schultz reported that had not but will do so first thing in the morning.

Chief DiGiorgio reported that the District met with Coronis, our EMS billing company, to discuss outstanding issues. Commissioner O'Hare reported that it was a productive meeting and we are going to have regular meetings to keep the District informed so nothing falls through the cracks going forward.

Commissioner O'Hare asked if there was any other old business. There was none.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Dugan Jr. reported that one of the firefighters wants to start a physical training program and asked if it would be okay to do different exercises during shift. Commissioner Cornine asked Chief DiGiorgio if the District has an exercise policy. Chief DiGiorgio reported that that the District has neither an exercise policy nor one that prevents exercise during shift. Commissioner Dugan Sr. recommended that the firefighter create a written proposal for the Board to review because the Board would need to approve it in case someone gets hurt. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that he has no issue with it as long as it is a Board approved. Commissioner Cornine reported that while it comes with risk, he supports it and noted that physical training programs that have been adopted by other agencies have been very successful.

Commissioner Dugan Jr. supported the idea also. Commissioner O'Hare reported that the Board has always been supportive of physical fitness and asked Commissioner Dugan Jr. to have the firefighter submit a written proposal to the Board.

Commissioner Cornine reported that in closed session at the last meeting a concern was brought forward that he would like to address in open session in case others might have concerns. Commissioner Cornine reported that there is no conflict of interest with his affiliations and the committees that he sits on. Commissioner Cornine reported that he is not an FMBA member but he remains a dues paying social member as a longstanding member of the Township. Commissioner Cornine reported that he is not covered by CNA or CEA and he has no other affiliations with the FMBA. Commissioner Cornine felt there were no real conflicts. Commissioner Cornine reported that when he took this position he went to knowledgeable people and was advised that the only things he needed to concern himself with were any business dealings between the Township of Morris and Cedar Knolls. Commissioner Cornine reported that he would have to abstain from these dealings and that he absolutely would do so if the occasion arose. Commissioner Cornine reported that if anyone does have concerns they should reach out to him so he can address them so they do not linger and have to be brought up at a meeting.

Administrator Schultz reported that the Board approved a check this evening to New Jersey Fire Equipment for \$72,000 and asked that the check be held until there is a resolution to the problem with the FEMA grant that is going on right now. Administrator Schultz reported that the District was notified that part of the grant is being scrutinized and it would mean the difference between the District paying \$3,000 and having to pay \$12,000 for the equipment. Administrator Schultz reported that the District has submitted a reply to FEMA and is waiting for them to make a final determination. Administrator Schultz reported that the District will go back to Millennium if need be to see if they can rectify the situation because he does not want to have to pay the additional money. Commissioner O'Hare instructed the bookkeeper to hold the check.

REMINDERS:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 7:00 P.M at the firehouse.

The Fire District Annual Election will be held on Saturday, February 19, 2022 from 2 P.M. until 9 P.M. at the Cedar Knolls Fire Station. Administrator Schultz noted that the District will need poll workers and should start looking now.

The Joint Fire Prevention Board Meeting will be determined.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

RESOLUTIONS: Commissioner O'Hare asked if anyone had any objections to voting by consent agenda for the following resolutions. There were no objections.

Commissioner O'Hare read Resolution 22-01-06-04 authorizing a Temporary Budget.

Commissioner O'Hare read Resolution 22-01-06-05 appointing Probationary FF / EMT J. N. Martin.

Commissioner O'Hare read Resolution 22-01-06-06 accepting the resignation of Volunteer FF Lynes.

Commissioner Cornine made a motion to introduce the resolutions, seconded by Commissioner Dugan Sr. All were in favor. Commissioner DeSimone was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Commissioner Dugan Jr., seconded by Commissioner Dugan Sr., to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Commissioner DeSimone was absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Steven Cornine, Secretary