

**The Monthly Work Session of the Board of Fire Commissioners
District #3, in the Township of Hanover,
County of Morris, Cedar Knolls, New Jersey
December 16, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on December 16, 2010 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975, Chapter 231.

Attendees: Commissioners Thomas Harrington, Gary Keyser, Joseph Martin, Paul Pilipie, Thomas Quirk

Assistant Chief, EMS Robert O'Hare was present. Also in attendance were John O'Brien, Scott Thompson, Chad DiGiorgio and Peter DeNegriz.

The Board stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Harrington said that the Fire Prevention Resolution was passed by the Committee and will be effective January 1, 2011. Also, the resolution will be prepared for the January 6, 2011 regular monthly meeting regarding the acceptance of the Commissioners' by-laws.

The Chairman also reported that VCI is still working on Ambulance #39 and it will not be back until Monday, December 20th or so. There is a lot of work to be done regarding the radios.

The Board had asked Chief Davidson to ask Dr. Manis to do a standard operating procedure for the upcoming physicals. The Chairman asked the Board to read over the SOG on procedure for physicals before the next meeting in January 2011. Any changes can be done through the Chief or the Chairman so that it is done for the next meeting. All of the paperwork for the physicals has been sent out and the physicals are scheduled for January 18th and 25th in 2011.

As discussed last month, the Chief is working on EMS licensing. The Chairman asked Commissioners Keyser and Quirk to meet with the Chief to review the paperwork for the license which needs to be ready for January 1, 2011. Commissioner Quirk said that he will be away and asked Chairman Harrington to take his place.

Chairman Harrington said that the Chief is working with Sonitrol Security on the cameras based on the decisions made at the last meeting.

Chairman Harrington reported that he had sent a letter regarding the billing issue to the Second Floor which did not get there before the regular meeting. The Chairman did speak with the fire company and explained that they would be kept up to date on what

will be happening as far as where the Board is regarding setting up the billing system. There was a lot of concern and questions from the members. Vice President MaryLou DeSimone stopped the meeting and rescheduled a special meeting for the following Monday at which all questions would be answered. It was suggested by Vice President DeSimone that the membership submit their questions prior to the meeting so that the Commissioners would have time to look into anything for which they did not have an answer. The Chairman asked if any who was present from the public at this meeting had any questions at this time. There were no questions asked. Commissioner Keyser asked whether they had to abide by the Sunshine Law if more than two Commissioners attended the meeting on the Second Floor. Commissioner Keyser suggested putting an advertisement in the paper so that any Commissioner could attend the special meeting and answer questions. Chairman Harrington stated that the Board still pays the insurance and all of the liability and workmens' compensation. The Board will be compensating the Fire Company and First Aid Squad out of the funds that are collected through the billing. Any money that is collected through Billing cannot be spent by the Board because it has to go into anticipated revenue for 2012. The Chairman again asked if there were any questions or wanted any further information regarding the billing for EMS. Robert Tweedus of the Fire Company stated that his biggest concern is that the Second Floor organization is a non-profit organization and should maintain their non-profit classification. Chairman Harrington said the license and the billing are registered to the Hanover Township Fire District #3 which is the billing agency. The status of the Second Floor will not change. There were no other questions from the public. Mr. Tweedus questioned the status of the volunteers of the First Aid Squad and he was told that nothing changes unless they choose to work per diem doing the same job as the career men – then they can no longer work as volunteers in this department. Commissioner Keyser indicated that all indications are that, legally, the department is bound by State law regarding per diem pay and volunteers. John O'Brien asked when Board members go to the State Firemen's Convention if there are any parts of the agenda where recommendations for modifications can be made to existing state laws. The State Fire District Association has a lobbyist in the district/state association in Trenton. The Chairman said there is a bill that is still waiting to be signed after many years for districts to run EMS because more and more districts are taking over EMS. He also said that all the Board is asking for is what the state of New Jersey requires from the Board is to use the Second Floor's ambulances (which must be in writing), the word AMBULANCE on four sides of the ambulances and a state certification seal on the ambulance also which the Board pays for. John O'Brien questioned whether balance billing will be for some and not other residents and was answered that everyone will be billed the same. Commissioner Keyser indicated that the Board has hired a company to direct them on every aspect involved in billing.

Peter DeNigris indicated that this Board had asked him at the last meeting to bring up at the Planning Board a request to include the two Chiefs on the spec committee to help review the plans for new companies in the Township who are moving into existing buildings. Mr. DeNigris reported that he had brought it up at the last Planning Board meeting and there wasn't any negative response. He spoke to Bill Byrne, the Planning

Board Chairman, and he was going to speak to Steve Kaplan with the Township Building Department who will get back to this Board.

Chairman Harrington indicated that he had received a memo from Chief Davidson indicating that Mr. Bucco had questions regarding Revenue Guard. There was some confusion on the licenses for the First Aid Squad. The Chairman said he would contact Mr. Bucco to clear things up.

Commissioner Quirk had a question on checks in the amount of \$56,000.00 from the Fire Prevention Bureau. Commissioner Keyser explained that this Board has their own Fire Prevention Bureau account for Fire District #3 and he further explained why it has to go into the Board's general account, based on the 2009 audit.

Chairman Harrington said that he and Commissioner Keyser had met with Robert Calise, the Board's Financial Advisor, to go over the budget. The Commissioners had called the Department of Community Affairs' local finance board regarding the application for approval for the \$500,000.00 needed for the new truck that the Board is looking into. The application was completed and sent in by the deadline. The hearing is January 12th when the Board will know if the loan has been approved. Commissioner Keyser said that he had e-mailed the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs, to find out whether the lease purchase needs to be put on the February elections ballot to ask the voters' approval.

Commissioner Keyser said he had met with Jim Schultz regarding the elections and the petition should be ready early in January.

Commissioner Keyser felt the Board should take inventory on the Nextel phones to see who has them. Chief Davidson, Robert Lake, Frank DeSimone, John Fehir, Ernie Marconi and some other people have them along with two phones in the ambulance, but the Board agreed that they need to have an accounting on everyone who has them.

Chairman Harrington said he had met with Mayor Sheridan, Committeeman George Coppola, Commissioners Henry Hansch and Ronald Barz from District #2, Commissioners Thomas Quirk and Thomas Harrington, Chiefs James Davidson and Joseph Cortright and Joseph Giorgio, Township to discuss county dispatch radios. Commissioner Quirk said that he thought that the meeting was scheduled to tell everyone that the Township was going to the County system, but the Mayor indicated that, at this time, the police department was not leaning that way. The reason they were there was so the fire districts could express to the mayor their concern about the burden of the cost to the fire districts. Mr. Sheridan asked, "What if we upgrade and you buy your radios and then you have our dispatch. If the Town decides to go, everyone goes to the county as a unit." The Chairman said he told them that, as two districts, they cannot afford the administrative costs. With the 2% cap, each district would have to pay \$40,000.00. The only way to do it would be to go under the Township umbrella with the Township paying the administrative costs. Commissioner Quirk felt that the meeting was held to find out how the two Fire Chiefs felt about going to the County. Commissioner Keyser felt that

the Board should call the County Administrator to find out if the \$40,000.00/district price is coming down for 2011. Chairman Harrington felt that the two fire districts have 6 months before they have to start moving on this issue. There was further discussion on what the Township will be doing and how that affects the two fire districts.

Commissioner Keyser made a motion to go into closed session to discuss Personnel at 8:05 PM, seconded by Commissioner Quirk, all in favor.

The monthly meeting reopened at 9:00 PM. There was no other business to discuss. **A motion to adjourn was made at 9:00 PM by Commissioner Pilipie, seconded by Commissioner Quirk, all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Paul Pilipie, Secretary