

**The Monthly Work Session of the Board of Fire Commissioners
District #3, in the Township of Hanover,
County of Morris, Cedar Knolls, New Jersey
April 21, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM on April 21, 2011 in accordance with the Open Public meeting Act of 1975, Chapter 231.

Attendees: Commissioners Peter DeNigris, Thomas Harrington, Gary Keyser, Paul Pilipie

Absent: Commissioner Thomas Quirk

Chief James Davidson and Committeeman George Coppola were also present.

Chairman Harrington apologized to the Board about the confusion surrounding the work that McMahon and Scotland, the Board's bond attorney, had done regarding the finances involved in purchasing the new fire truck. There was some miscommunication on what was done and what had to be done. Richard Braslow, Esq., Special Counsel for the Board, called McMahon and Scotland asking them to continue working on the bonding. The Chairman updated them and FAXed all the information that they needed and there is now a tentative date of May 11, 2011 for a hearing with the Local Finance Board in Trenton. Chairman Harrington, Richard Braslow and Vincent Montanino, the Board's Auditor, will also possibly be there. The application was submitted April 20, 2011. Chairman Harrington said the packet of information needed for the state for the local finance board will be in the Commissioners' desk for perusal by any Board members.

Chairman Harrington said that he read in the April 6, 2011 minutes about Truck #33 and Engine #35. Chairman Harrington clarified the issues surrounding Truck #33 noting that the original estimate to repair it was approximately \$9,000.00 and that, after discussion with Pierce, they agreed to repair it for \$3,500.00. Regarding the rust on Engine #35, the Chairman said that Commissioner Keyser called Pierce and the rust has been taken care of with no cost to the Fire District. The Chairman said that all Commissioners need to be put on the **Iamresponding** notification system so that all Commissioners will know when any equipment is out of service and when it is back in service. The question at the last meeting was not the cost, but the status of the repairs.

The Chairman relayed to the Board that the gutters were repaired and the boiler has been taken care of.

There was discussion on the RFP regarding what the Board wants to do relative to the resolution on the consultant. The Chief's report suggested that the consultant sit with

the Apparatus Committee for two preliminary meetings to discuss current ideas on the replacement of the fire pumper. Chief Davidson said that the attorney will bring the legal aspect and the apparatus architect will bring in the architectural aspects. Commissioner Keyser reminded the Board that they can go to a vendor to get specs. Chief Davidson agreed, but suggested that they get an independent author to write the specs and justify the specs. The Chairman asked the Board to decide if the Board should hire someone to do the spec or do it like the Board has in the past by reviewing the specs and vendors. Commissioner Pilipie suggested contacting departments that have purchased a truck close to what the Apparatus Committee is looking for and use their specs which can be adapted to what this department needs. Any changes can be made after looking at those specs. Commissioners Keyser and Harrington said they would investigate that. The Chairman said that there is a show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania where there are firetrucks from all over the country. Every manufacturer will be there sometime in May. Commissioners Keyser and Harrington will be attending along with the Chief. Chief Davidson said that the real value for having an expert is that, after the bid request is put out, the expert will be able to sift through the return bids to see which bid meets the specs best. The Chief said that his report includes three companies so that the Board can get prices and a sense of the cost. The Board agreed to have the Chief contact the three companies. Commissioner Keyser suggested that the Chief add "to take exception" wording in the bid requests. Chief Davidson said he has received 7 specs to date.

Commissioner Keyser had reported at the last meeting that the x-ray company had been billing those members who had participated in the recent physicals multiple times and, in some cases, had threatened sending the bill to a collection agency. The Commissioner contacted all parties involved and has since received a letter dated April 20, 2011 from the Atlantic Imaging Group confirming that they have instructed their billing department to rectify this and to further pull out all names of those members of the fire department who have received an x-ray. Going forward, no one should receive another bill. Commissioner Keyser said that Commissioner Quirk was going to see Scott Thompson and tell him that everything has been corrected. Chief Davidson will be sending an e-mail out with the letter attached.

Regarding the Steam Jenny, the Chief said he had given prices at the last work session and was waiting for the Board to get back to him. The Chief said there are some options vs. spending \$2,500.00 to \$3,000.00 such as renting one which would mean no maintenance upkeep. Whippany also has one which does not work. The Chief also suggested that it could be a joint purchase between the two districts. To date, a pressure washer has been used which does not clean as well as the Steam Jenny. In the winter, it is difficult to get the salt off trucks with a pressure washer. It was decided to rent one and see how it works before purchasing a new one. Chief Davidson suggested renting one right before the inspection and the Board was in favor of doing that.

Chairman Harrington indicated that everything is set up with the YMCA regarding the physical fitness program. The Second Floor was told that the Board will pay 1/3 of the cost. The Chief said he went to the kick off program. He said that the nice thing about it is that the Nutritionist and Personal Training time is on the individual's

schedule. If the individual cannot make the 5 Wednesday night training sessions, he/she can just reschedule. The YMCA is being very flexible and the nutritionist, personal trainer and the program is good for a year.

The Chairman asked Commissioner Keyser about the deferred payment from the Pension Board and was told that it was an interest charge from the time they charge it until the Board received their check.

Chairman Harrington asked Committeeman Coppola if he had anything to report. The Committeeman reported about discussions with the Jewish Community Center (JCC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) regarding annual contributions amounting to \$10,000.00 in which the Township would get the money and dispense it to whomever. Committeeman Coppola indicated that he and others on the committee want to see this in writing and will formalize it in a resolution. He further stipulated that the agreement will/should have a 5 year review to see if the amount should be increased. The Board questioned Mr. Coppola on how the monies would be distributed between the two fire companies noting that Cedar Knolls responds to a disproportionate number of calls at the JCC complex vs. the number of calls that Whippany responds to. The Board wants the Township Committee to be acutely aware of the differences and does not think that any "donation" should be divided 50/50.

Commissioner Harrington reminded the Board that they will be giving Craig Vagell one of the keychains at Inspection Night that the Board purchased to give to members who have done outstanding jobs.

Commissioner Pilipie asked if Commissioner Keyser had heard anything from Chuck Hill, the landscaper. Commissioner Keyser said that the landscaper had been there, put flowers in and did Spring clean-up. Chuck told Chairman Harrington that he would do seeding and top soil where needed for \$100.00. He also is donating the flowers. He also gave the Board his certificate of insurance and business certificate which will be given to Jim Schultz who is keeping a file for these certificates.

Commissioner Keyser said that the financial audit has to be done by April 30, 2011.

Chairman Harrington reported that Ringwood Trees was here again to fertilize the lawn. Ringwood never charges and donates the fertilizer.

There was no other business to discuss. **Commissioner Pilipie made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 PM, seconded by Commissioner DeNigris, all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Paul Pilipie, Secretary

