

**The Monthly Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners
District #3, in the Township of Hanover,
County of Morris, Cedar Knolls, New Jersey
February 4, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on February 4, 2010 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975, Chapter 231.

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

Absent: Commissioner Gary Keyser

Chief James Davidson was also present.

The Board stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first order of business was the swearing in of two new volunteer fire members. Commissioner Pilipie, Board Secretary, read **Resolution 10-02-04-05 appointing Thomas Quirk as a volunteer member in Fire District #3 and Jillian Sorentino as a junior volunteer member, EMS within Fire District #3. Thomas Laird was also appointed as a volunteer member with Fire District #3, but was not present. A motion was made by Commissioner Pilipie to accept the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Martin, all in favor. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioners Pilipie, Martin and Harrington voting to approve the appointments, with Commissioner Quirk abstaining and Commissioner Keyser absent.** The new members were then sworn in and congratulated by the Board.

Old Business

Chairman Harrington had planned on asking George Coppola, Liaison to the Board of Fire Commissioners, about questions that Mr. Coppola said he would look into, but Mr. Coppola was not present for this meeting. The Chairman said he would follow-up with Mr. Coppola at the next meeting regarding:

- Checking with the Township Attorney to see if the budgeted \$75,000.00 from District #2 can only be used for EMS services
- Whether Mr. Coppola spoke with the other Township Committeemen regarding the severity of the problem with District #2

The Chairman also was going to follow up with Commissioner Keyser on alternatives regarding buying or leasing ambulances and whether an amended budget could be filed or any other options, but Commissioner Keyser was not present at this

meeting so Chairman Harrington said discussion on this topic would also be put on hold until the next meeting.

Next to be discussed was District #2's response to District #3's invitation inviting Board members, fire company members and any residents of District #2 to attend a Board meeting in Cedar Knolls where any of their questions could be answered or to discuss options relative to EMS calls, the Interlocal Agreement or any other topics. Chairman Harrington indicated that District #2 did not have their Board meeting yet in which they would read the invitation letter. Chairman Harrington postponed discussion on this issue until the February 18th monthly work session when he hopes to have information on this issue.

Chairman Harrington reported that the members of the Billing Committee are still working on their individual reports regarding the results of their looking into billing for EMS calls, with the exception of Commissioner Quirk who has completed his. Commissioner Keyser had already given a written report to everyone at the November 9, 2009 Special Meeting between the two Boards, chaired by Mr. Coppola.

Commissioner Keyser was supposed to check into the fence on the south side of the property next to the strip mall where Hunan Wok is, but he was not present at this meeting. There was discussion on how to handle customers of the strip mall who park on the fire department's land including asking police to enforce a fire lane ordinance, temporary barricades, posts in the ground with chains in between, etc. Chief Davidson suggested asking the DPW to supply some temporary barricades down the property line until something more permanent could be done. Commissioner Quirk said he would ask the DPW to loan them the barricades. Since it would be hard to put posts in during winter, the Board decided to start with the barricades until something more permanent can be put in. Chairman Harrington wants to go with the NO PARKING signs every few feet so there is not enough room for cars to park.

There was discussion on the Fire District website including the need to have someone maintain the site and enter information to keep it current. The Chief suggested hiring someone like Craig Vagell who is already doing this for the fire company. This would be less expensive than hiring a company to do this. Chairman Harrington asked if the Board felt that it was needed or not. The Chief said that it is a way to publicize what the Board does, budget information and other information. It was suggested that it was possible that the fire department, who already has a website, might be willing to let the Board pay for a page on the website. The Chairman said that it would be less expensive that way. He suggested writing a letter to the President of the fire company asking if they would allow the Board to take a page on their website for a price. The Board was in agreement.

The next issue discussed was E-Dispatching which was to be put to a vote at this meeting. This was discussed at the Fire Prevention Bureau's last meeting and it was agreed at that time to go ahead with the joint purchase of E-Dispatching if it saved money by going in on it together. **Resolution 10-02-04-06 was assigned indicating that**

\$1,050.00 would be allocated toward the purchase of E-Dispatching in which personnel would be notified of emergency calls and contracting for the use of services by Penguin Communications, LLC. This would be a joint contract with Fire District #2 and administered through the Fire Prevention Bureau. A motion was made by Commissioner Quirk, seconded by Commissioner Martin. A roll call vote was taken, all in favor with Commissioner Keyser absent.

Chairman Harrington reported that he had followed up with Joseph Giorgio, Township Administrator, regarding the Township's joint health policy. The Township Committee had no problem with this, but at the joint insurance meeting, it was voted down because the Township does not control the fire department and, therefore, the joint insurance agency would not have any control also over the men or the district so it was voted down.

The Chairman asked if the Commissioners had looked over the local fire prevention ordinance changes that Chief Davidson had recommended. The Chief said that Chief Cortright had received a copy also and he would be giving it to his Board at their next meeting. Chief Davidson suggested that this be discussed at the next Fire Prevention Bureau meeting in March and voted on then.

Chairman Harrington indicated that Commissioner Keyser had previously dropped off an affidavit sent from The Daily Record. He asked Chief Davidson if copies were kept for public notices for the year, October 1, 2008 to September 2009 in which net paid for circulation for the entire year was \$27,660.00. By law, newspapers can only charge government agencies a percentage of what their circulation is. Chief Davidson indicated that there should be a file of legal notices and affidavits -- Jim Schulz has a copy of everything and there should also be a copy in the minute book. This retention is done every year.

Old Business

Next was the approval of the minutes from the January 7, 2010 regular monthly meeting. **Commissioner Pilipie made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Martin, all in favor, with the exception of Commissioner Keyser who was absent.**

Chairman Harrington asked for the approval of the minutes from the January 21, 2010 Special Meeting for the budget. **Commissioner Quirk made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Martin, all in favor except for Commissioner Keyser who was absent.**

Chairman Harrington asked for the approval of the minutes from the January 21, 2010 Monthly Work Session. **Commissioner Pilipie made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Quirk, all in favor, with the exception of Commissioner Keyser who was absent.**

New Business

Chairman Harrington indicated that the annual transfer of appropriations when funds are low in a particular budget area needs approval by the Board. **Resolution 10-02-04-07 was assigned to approve the allowance of annual transfer of appropriations in the budget. A motion was made by Commissioner Quirk to accept the transfer of appropriations listed by the Secretary, seconded by Commissioner Martin, all in favor. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioners Harrington, Martin, Pilipie and Quirk voting in favor and Commissioner Keyser absent.**

Commissioner Quirk asked how the Board felt about he and the Chairman shopping around for professionals to possibly replace some of the advisors used in the past to advise the Board. He said he felt it was time to see if there are others who might be better than some of the advisors they have now. Chairman Harrington said that they definitely need to find someone to replace Bill Homa, their previous Budget Advisor, who could not continue because of heavy commitments. The Chairman said that Commissioner Keyser had mentioned to him that he had two names of people who were suggested to him as Mr. Homa's replacement. It was agreed that the Commissioners should look into some new advisors and that it should be done before the March Reorganization meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Chairman Harrington reported in Commissioner Keyser's absence that checks #3863 – 3900 were paid in the amount of \$44,622.25. **Commissioner Martin made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Quirk, all in favor.**

There was no further business to discuss. **A motion to adjourn was made at 7:42 PM by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Quirk, all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Paul Pilipie, Secretary

