

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

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

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

Absent: Commissioner Joseph Martin

Chief Davidson was also present.

The Board stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Harrington announced that the Board would deviate from its regular order of meeting which normally is open to the public in order to accommodate Stephen Trimboli, the Board's Labor Attorney, who was present for legal interpretation discussion during closed session. **Commissioner Pilipie made a motion to go into closed session at 7:05 PM, seconded by Commissioner Keyser, all in favor. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioners Harrington, Keyser, Pilipie and Quirk in favor – Commissioner Martin was absent.**

The monthly meeting was reopened at 7:46 PM.

Assistant Chief Bob O'Hare and Captain Mary Lou DeSimone were in attendance.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the October 7, 2010 regular monthly meeting. **Commissioner Keyser made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted from the October 7, 2010 regular monthly meeting, seconded by Commissioner Pilipie, all in favor.**

Next was the approval of the minutes from the October 21, 2010 monthly work session. **Commissioner Keyser made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted from the October 21, 2010 monthly work session, seconded by Commissioner Pilipie, all in favor.**

Chairman Harrington asked if anyone from the public had anything to say and there was no response.

Correspondence

Chairman Harrington reminded the Board that this Sunday will be the dedication of Veteran's Park.

The Chairman also reminded the Board that there will be a joint meeting with Commissioners from Parsippany, Montville, Pine Brook, Whippany and Cedar Knolls at Lake Parsippany Firehouse on Tuesday, November 9th at 7:00 PM. Assemblyman Alex DeCroce is expected to be in attendance also.

Chief Davidson reminded the Board that the Rabies Clinic will be held at the Cedar Knolls Firehouse on Saturday, November 6th from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

Committee Reports

Chairman Harrington asked if Commissioner Pilipie had any information on the recognition keychains for outstanding efforts by volunteer members. Commissioner Pilipie had a sample keychain on which he suggested printing *Thank You*. The Chairman suggested having the recipient's names on the back of the keychain. Chief Davidson suggested buying a certain number and having them engraved as needed. The keychain already has District #3, CKFD on the front. The Board decided to buy 5 to keep on hand and buy more as needed and not put any additional engraving on the keychains.

Commissioner Keyser made a motion to have Commissioner Pilipie purchase 5 keychains to keep onhand, seconded by Commissioner Quirk, all in favor.

Commissioner Quirk indicated that he and Commissioner Pilipie had reviewed the response received from Anthony Bucco, Jr., Esq., Counsel to the Board, regarding the bylaws. There were minor changes with the exception of proxy voting which Mr. Bucco said could be done by way of telephone or letter to the Chairperson. Commissioner Quirk said he needs to contact Mr. Bucco because there was something in the bylaws that said no proxy voting so Commissioner Quirk has to call him to see if there is a legal reason for adding no proxy voting to the bylaws. Commissioner Keyser felt it would be allowed if someone was present via telephone for the entire discussion. Commissioner Quirk said he would contact Mr. Bucco to clarify that section. If the Board goes by the current bylaws, the Board needs a 4/5 vote with two consecutive readings before the vote. Commissioner Quirk suggested having the first reading at the December meeting and the second reading at the January 2011 meeting. A resolution has to be drawn up. The Board said that the bylaws need to include proxy participation via telephone and Commissioner Quirk said he would speak to Mr. Bucco about including that in the bylaws.

Commissioner Pilipie asked about the exhaust system problem in the ambulance bay and Commissioner Keyser indicated that it had been taken care of.

Commissioner Keyser asked if the exhaust fitting was done for the new ambulance and Chief Davidson said it was done but the adaptor was not on the new ambulance as of yet, but will be done after the 15th.

Old Business

Chairman Harrington asked if the Chief had heard from Royal Communications regarding the panel for the siren. Chief Davidson said that they had installed it and tested it and it had worked fine. However, later that day, it did not work. The Chief thinks that the problem is with the Police desk and the signal they are sending. He doesn't think they are going to fix it, but he can call them and ask them to set the sirens off and it would go off. Commissioner Quirk said it sounds like the sending it manually works, but the automated does not work. It was agreed to leave it as it is.

Commissioner Harrington asked for an update on the quote on cameras for the ambulance bay and Chief Davidson said he will be meeting with the representative within the next couple of days.

Commissioner Keyser reported that he and Commissioner Pilipie were working on the backflow preventer valve to see if it was still under warranty when it was replaced by Hobby Heat.

Chairman Harrington said that the November 9, 2010 meeting has been advertised in the **Daily Record**.

Chairman Harrington indicated that he and Commissioner Quirk had met with Mayor John Sheridan and Committeeman George Coppola regarding EMS issues and the topic of going to the County radio dispatch came up. The Chairman said that they had attended the Township Committee meeting just last week in which Mayor Sheridan had said the Township was going to switch to the County radio dispatch which was a surprise to Chairman Harrington and others attending the meeting. The Chairman said that they had informed the Mayor and Mr. Coppola that it would be a huge financial burden on the Board if they decided to do it without being informed so that it could be put in the budget. They were told by the Mayor and Mr. Coppola that they would be included in the process of going to the County even if they decided to go next June or July and they would hold off until January 2012 if it means District #3 would not have the funding at that time. The Mayor said that they are in the driver's seat as to when they sign on and are currently in negotiations, but nothing would be put into effect until 2012. Commissioner Quirk said that the Mayor understands that there is a budgetary problem for the district and he needs to give us sufficient time and would include the Board and Chief Davidson in the process.

Commissioners Pilipie and Quirk felt that Committeeman Coppola should not get a copy of the minutes when the Commissioners receive theirs because those minutes have not been approved until the regular monthly meeting. If the Committeeman would like a copy of the minutes, he can get a copy after it has been approved and corrections are

made. The Chairman felt that Mr. Coppola should get a copy since he is Liaison to the Township Committee. Commissioner Quirk felt that the Committeeman should make sure the other Committeemen get a copy of the minutes so they know what is going on. The Chairman felt they should get a verbal report from Mr. Coppola to the Committeemen. Committeeman Pilipie felt that the Committeeman should also report back to this Board any information discussed at those meetings.

Chairman Harrington asked Chief Davidson if he had spoken with Mr. Braslow about the lawsuit that the Board is involved in and the Chief said he had and it is an ongoing discussion.

Chairman Harrington indicated that he had sent a letter to the President of the Cedar Knolls Fire Department/First Aid Squad regarding what is happening on EMS billing.

Commissioner Keyser asked Chief Davidson what the status is on the old ambulance in the parking lot. Chief Davidson said the new ambulance is going down a punch list of items to be taken care of. They still have a commitment from Brian Foran that there will be space available for the old ambulance at the Township garage.

The Chairman asked if everyone had looked at the revised local ordinance for the fee schedule and everyone was in agreement with the fees. Chief Davidson said they were waiting a result from Mr. Dorsey regarding a fee for plan review and he said to go with it. The Chairman said they are shooting for it to be in effect January 1, 2011. He asked if the Fire Prevention Ordinance was done to be included in that. Chief Davidson said he thought a resolution had already been passed approving the fee schedule. The Board did not pass a resolution, but they were in agreement with it.

Chairman Harrington said that the First Aid Squad has been providing EMS services for 67 years. He felt strongly that we should be the EMS agency covering all of Hanover Township. The Chairman said he has a resolution drawn which would designate the Hanover Township Fire District #3 and the Cedar Knolls Fire Department and First Aid Squad as the agency to provide EMS services for all of Hanover Township. District #3 would do the billing, supply the service and provide paid men and volunteers without using District #2's career men. The Board felt they don't want to go through this every year. This should not affect mutual aid for the Fire Department at all. **A motion was made by Commissioner Quirk to move forward on the resolution to the Township designating the Board of Fire Commissioners and the Fire Department/First Aid Squad to be the primary EMS provider in Hanover Township, seconded by Commissioner Keyser. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioners Quirk, Keyser and Harrington in favor, Commissioner Pilipie against and Commissioner Martin absent. A second motion was made by Commissioner Quirk to move forward on further investigating the billing process for EMS calls, seconded by Commissioner Keyser, all in favor. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioners Quirk, Keyser, Harrington and Pilipie in favor and Commissioner Martin absent.** With these two motions passed, before going ahead, Chairman Harrington will go before

the Cedar Knolls Fire Department/First Aid Squad meeting and will follow up with a letter to be presented to the Township Committee and then the Board will move forward on the billing process.

There was a brief discussion regarding moving forward with the one district concept. Chairman Harrington appointed a committee of Commissioners Quirk and Pilipie to investigate the feasibility of having one district.

There was no other business to discuss. **A motion to adjourn was made at 9:50 PM by Commissioner Keyser, seconded by Commissioner Pilipie, all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Paul Pilipie, Secretary