

The May 7, 2015 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 PM on May 6, 2015 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975, Chapter 31.

Attendees: Commissioners Robert Callas, Michael Dugan, Maria Florio and Thomas Quirk

Absent: Commissioner Peter DeNigris

Public Participation: Gary Keyser, speaking as a member of the department, expressed concern about a delay in the dispatch system leading to delayed responses. He questioned the merits of renewing the contract with the County communications center until the flaws can be identified and, possibly, corrected. He inquired if there was a committee that still existed that could look into the merits of going back to Hanover Township dispatching. He asked the Board if they had heard any other individuals comment on the delayed response. Commissioner Quirk indicated that he had and Commissioner Florio said, in the past week, she had heard from individuals.

Commissioner Quirk indicated that he had looked into a new radio system that would include radios, repeater and desk for a complete total price of \$125,000.00.

Commissioner Florio asked Assistant Chief O'Hare for his input regarding response times. Chief O'Hare indicated that he was not aware of any delayed response, but there had been communication problems with responding members and crew chiefs were advised to get a portable radio before their shift so that they could monitor the call while responding to the firehouse. Commissioner Quirk noted that, often during the day, duty crews were out the door before the County dispatched because they heard Hanover Police on the radio. His point was why do we need the County if we are out the door based on Hanover police. Chief O'Hare stated, in his opinion, that the only way to answer

the question on delayed responses is to gather the data that is time stamped electronically, analyze it and see what it yields.

There was much further discussion revolving around dispatch times from Hanover, from the County and how these times interfaced. Commissioner Florio made the point by asking the question, “Are the clocks synchronized that are being used”?

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Florio wanted to make one clarification regarding the April 16, 2015 minutes videotaping by Employment Horizon volunteers. The point was that they were never completed as opposed to being misplaced and that is why they were being redone. With that clarification, **a motion was made by Commissioner Quirk, seconded by Commissioner Callas to accept the minutes as amended, all in favor.**

A motion was also made by Commissioner Quirk, seconded by Commissioner Callas to accept the minutes of the May 1, 2015 Special Meeting, all in favor.

Report of the Chief and Board Committees:

- **Chief’s Report:** The Chief left a written report. There were no comments or questions.
- **EMS:** Chief O’Hare reported that the recruiting campaign has been modestly successful and there have been a significant number of new members that are in different stations of the application process, both juniors and regular members.
- **Labor Relations:** Commissioner Quirk needs to speak to Administrator Schultz to iron out some small details on language and get everything signed.
- **Buildings & Grounds:** Chairman Dugan reported that the bids came in for the roof project. There is an issue with the low bidder which has to be sorted out and, therefore, the resolution for tonight will be filled.

- **Apparatus/Equipment Maintenance** --The ladder truck is out and being tested.
- **Website** – Commissioner Florio reported that the website is outdated and is very dismayed, after repeated comments and urging, that corrections have not been made. She noted that it is a legal requirement to have certain information accurate and posted in a timely fashion. Chairman Dugan said he would speak to the Administrator and the Chief regarding this matter.
- **Communications** – There was further discussion regarding response times, dispatch times, and the link in time from a 911 call to Hanover, to the County and to our firehouse. Commissioner Quirk suggested that during negotiations with the County, some attempt be made to get a discount based on our support of their OEM. Chairman Dugan noted that the County internally has separate budgets and this would be difficult to do per se.

Old Business – Overnight Stay in the firehouse -- Pam Brown (Insurance Agent) stated that there is no reason why personnel cannot stay/sleep overnight in the firehouse from an insurance point of view.

Chairman Dugan stated that they received 3 bids for the air conditioning project in the Day Room. He recommended going with the low bid which was \$4,895.00. **Commissioner Dugan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Florio to proceed with the air conditioning project for \$4,895.00, all in favor.**

New Business – Chairman Dugan reviewed Chief DiGiorgio’s request concerning providing mutual aid to Morris Township. Discussion followed and the Board agreed to Chief DiGiorgio having further discussions to formalize things.

Resolutions – Commissioner Callas read **Resolution 15-05-07-39** appointing Chad DiGiorgio as Fire Official for the fire district. **A motion was made by Commissioner Florio, seconded by Commissioner Quirk to adopt the resolution, all in favor.**

Commissioner Callas read **Resolution 15-05-07-40** appointing probationary per diem EMT Catherine Mills. **A motion was made by Commissioner Florio, seconded by Commissioner Quirk to adopt the resolution, all in favor.**

Commissioner Callas read **Resolution 15-05-07-41** appointing volunteer member Mohammad Ali Abdeljabbar as a volunteer firefighter with the district. **A motion was made by Commissioner Florio, seconded by Commissioner Quirk to adopt the resolution, all in favor.**

Commissioner Callas read **Resolution 15-05-07-42** appointing volunteer member Andrew Schnayderman as an EMT with the district. **A motion was made by Commissioner Florio, seconded by Commissioner Quirk to adopt the resolution, all in favor.**

Commissioner Callas read **Resolution 15-05-07-43** recommending the payment of Fire Safety Lecturer. The Board recommends to the joint Fire Prevention Board to pay the amount of \$500.00 for the services of Simon Says, LLC for lectures at both Whippany Park and Hanover Park High Schools. **A motion was made by Commissioner Florio, seconded by Commissioner Quirk to adopt the resolution, all in favor.**

Commissioner Callas read **Resolution 15-05-07-44** awarding a contract for rental of copiers and associated maintenance and supplies. A contract will go to PBS, 20 Leslie Court, Whippany, New Jersey. **A motion was made by Commissioner Florio, seconded by Commissioner Quirk to adopt the resolution, all in favor.**

Commissioner Callas read **Resolution 15-05-07-45** authorizing the sale of a Stryker model 6082MX-pro stretcher s/n 0502-40483 to Ryan Roe for the price of \$906.01. **A motion was made by Commissioner Florio, seconded by Commissioner Quirk to adopt the resolution, all in favor.**

There was no further business to discuss. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert Callas, Secretary

The above minutes were approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners at a Board meeting on May 21, 2015.

