

February 15, 2024 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 p.m. on February 15, 2024 in accordance with the Public Meeting Act of 1975, Chapter 231. The Board observed a moment of silence for all those who have given their lives in service of their communities and nation.

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Steven Cornine, Mary Lou DeSimone, Michael Dugan Jr., Gary Keyser, and Shawn Waldron were present.

Administrator Schultz, Deputy Administrator Hark Jr., Asst. Chief Martin, Lt. McGuinness, FF Gilson, FF Martin, FF Ujfalussy, EMT Bergman, Fire Co. Member Harrington, and Mr. Dugan Sr. were also in attendance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes from the February 1, 2024 Regular Meeting were reviewed.

Amendments to the Previous Minutes: None.

Commissioner Waldron made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2024 Regular Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dugan Jr. All were in favor. Commissioner Cornine abstained.

The minutes from the January 18, 2024 Executive Session were reviewed.

Amendments to the Previous Minutes: None.

Commissioner Waldron made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2024 Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Dugan Jr. All were in favor.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: Commissioner Waldron reported that the District is operating on the temporary 2024 budget that the Board passed by resolution.

Report of Fire Commissioner Board Committees and Chief of Department:

CHIEF'S REPORT: Asst. Chief Martin submitted his Bi-Monthly report on February 14, 2024.

Commissioner Keyser asked if the Board has a certificate of insurance for a mechanic, Mr. Foer, who has done some work for the District. Administrator Schultz felt that the District has a certificate of insurance but he will verify.

Commissioner Keyser reported that FF Ujfalussy's training report states that RTF Training is pending approval of the budget and he thought the training had no cost to the District. Asst. Chief Martin reported that there is a cost because it necessitates the District to pay overtime to cover the shifts of the crew at training. Asst. Chief Martin reported that he opted to hold off on the training until after the budget vote. Commissioner Cornine clarified that there is no cost to the District for the training but has to pay any personnel costs. Asst. Chief Martin reported that a couple of months back the District received a set of gear free of charge which included chest and back plate, helmet, etc. through a grant from County OEM. Asst. Chief Martin reported that the annual renewal for the MOA for the Rescue Task Force is due.

Commissioner Keyser asked about the status of the foam leak on Engine 34 because the District is withholding payment until it is resolved. Asst. Chief Martin reported that the District is waiting for the contractor to identify the issue.

Commissioner Waldron asked if a message was sent out on the 5-inch hose mover hooks were put on the apparatus. Asst. Chief Martin reported that the District just took possession of them and will make sure a message is sent out. Asst. Chief Martin reported that the District is waiting on the hose to come in and the crews will start marking and swapping it out.

Commissioner Keyser asked if the District was still in limbo with Ambulance 32. Asst. Chief Martin confirmed that that the accident repair is in limbo but reported that the front and rear brakes should be replaced soon.

EMS: Nothing to report.

BUDGET: Commissioner Waldron reiterated that the District is operating on the temporary 2024 budget. Commissioner Waldron reported that the residents will vote on the 2024 Budget, referendum and capital questions on Saturday.

PERSONNEL: Commissioner DeSimone reported that the Board would need to go into Executive Session.

NEGOTIATIONS: Commissioner Keyser reported that the committee met with Local 109 on February 6 and there is no further meeting date set yet.

LIAISON TO THE VOLUNTEERS: Nothing to report.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Commissioner Dugan Jr. reported that the firehouse sewer line backed up because of a rag in the line and the plumber came out right away to clear the line.

Commissioner Waldron asked that the first 3 parking spots by the Engine Bay door be reserved for volunteers. The Board asked Asst. Chief Martin to arrange for signs on the three spots.

APPARATUS/EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE: None.

INSURANCE: None.

BY-LAWS: Commissioner Keyser reported that the By-Laws currently state that the Chairperson assigns Commissioners to committees, acts as an alternate to all committees. Commissioner Keyser noted that in practice the Chairperson has sat on committees and asked if the Board would like to change the By-Laws. Commissioner Waldron felt that the By-Laws should be changed to reflect what is actually being done. Commissioner Cornine felt that Robert's Rule of Order states that the Chairperson is on all committees and the By-Laws did not need to be changed because it prevents abuse of power. The Board decided to leave the By-Laws as is.

WEBSITE: Up to date.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Commissioner Keyser reported that discussions about shared service agreements with District 2 are on hold until after the February 2024 elections.

LIASON TO EXEMPTS: Commissioner Cornine reported that the Board may need to revisit the Exempt ownership of a portion of the firehouse property after the Saturday vote.

RECORDS RETENTION: Nothing to report.

LIAISON TO HANOVER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE: Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Asst. Chief Martin reported that there was an incident at 108 Glen Drive last Thursday when a contractor struck a gas line. Asst. Chief Martin reported that everyone that worked the call did a tremendous job with the numerous evacuations and Mutual Aid. Asst. Chief Martin congratulated Lt. Sulpy and his crew on doing a tremendous job.

Commissioner Keyser reported that the MOA for the Rescue Task Force (RTF) is up for annual renewal and asked if anyone had objections or questions on the renewal. There were no objections or questions. Commissioner Cornine made a motion to renew the RTF MOA with the Township Police, seconded by Commissioner DeSimone. All were in favor.

REMINDERS:

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

The Annual Election will be held on Saturday, February 17, 2024 from 2:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. Voters will be asked to elect three commissioners and additionally to approve or disapprove the 2024 Budget, a Cap Referendum, the purchase of an Ambulance and an Aerial Apparatus and the construction of a Fire Station.

The Board's Reorganization Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

The next Joint Fire Prevention Board Meeting will be determined.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

RESOLUTIONS: Commissioner DeSimone noted that the Board would combine the vote on the first two resolutions.

Commissioner Desimone read Resolution 24-02-15-10 honoring Eagle Scout Stockert.

Commissioner DeSimone read Resolution 24-02-15-11 honoring Eagle Scout Tecza.

Commissioner Cornine made a motion to introduce the resolutions, seconded by Commissioner Waldron. All were in favor. Commissioner Keyser noted that the Resolutions will be presented to the Eagle Scouts at their Court of Honor on February 24.

Commissioner DeSimone read Resolution 24-02-15-12 accepting the resignation of Volunteer FF Sheridan. Commissioner Waldron asked that the entire resolution be read into the record. Commissioner DeSimone read the resolution.

Whereas, John Sheridan has served the Fire District in the capacity of Volunteer Member of the District starting December 1, 2005, and

Whereas, John Sheridan has served with distinction in the position of Fire Crew Chief starting March 15, 2018 and

Whereas, John Sheridan has served with distinction in the position of Fire Lieutenant starting March 5, 2019 and

Whereas, John Sheridan submitted a letter of resignation from the District, attached hereto, with an effective date of March 5, 2024

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF FIRE DISTRICT No.3, TOWNSHIP OF HANOVER, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY as follows:

- 1. The Board accepts the resignation of John Sheridan from the District, and*
- 2. The Board of Fire Commissioners wish to extend our sincerest thanks to John Sheridan for his unselfish dedication and service as a volunteer firefighter and for his contributions to the communities that we serve.*

It is hereby certified that this resolution is adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners on the 15th day of February, 2024.

Commissioner Cornine made a motion to introduce the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dugan Jr. All were in favor.

Commissioner DeSimone read Resolution 24-02-15-13 amending EMS Terms and Conditions. Commissioner Dugan Jr. made a motion to introduce the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Waldron. All were in favor.

Commissioner DeSimone read Resolution 24-02-15-14 amending Residency for Volunteer Members of the Fire District. Commissioner Cornine made a motion to introduce the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Waldron. All were in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner DeSimone read Resolution 24-02-15-15 to enter into executive session. Commissioner Cornine made a motion to introduce the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Waldron. All were in favor.

The Board went into closed session at 7:33 p.m.

Personnel matters were discussed, and action will be taken.

The Board came out of closed session at 9:00 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS: Commissioner DeSimone read Resolution 24-02-15-16 appointing Joseph M. Martin as Fire Chief effective March 1, 2024.

Commissioner Cornine made a motion to introduce the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dugan Jr. All were in favor. Commissioner Keyser abstained.

Commissioner DeSimone read Resolution 24-02-15-17 establishing Terms and Conditions for the Paid Position of Fire Chief. Commissioner Cornine made a motion to introduce the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dugan Jr. All were in favor. Commissioner Keyser abstained.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Commissioner Dugan Jr., seconded by Commissioner Cornine, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Mary Lou DeSimone, Secretary