

April 17, 2025 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 April 17, 2025 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 Mary Lou DeSimone, Michael Dugan Sr., Robert Gallagher, Thomas Harrington, and Gary Keyser were present.

Deputy Administrator Hark Jr., Asst. Chief McGuinness, Committeeman Cahill, FF DiGiacomo, and members of the public were also in attendance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Commissioner Gallagher read the following letter dated April 9, 2025 from Morris Township Police Dept. Sergeant Ribnicki regarding Life Saving Award recognition.

Good Afternoon Chief McGuinness and Mr. Hark,

I am writing regarding an incident in which our agency along with MTFD, Cedar Knolls FAS and Atlantic Health Paramedics were dispatched to Morristown NJ for the report of a male in cardiac arrest, CPR in progress.

Upon arrival, Morris Township Police Dept. took over patient care from a neighbor who initiated CPR. I arrived on scene along with MTFD, Firefighters Meyer, Simms, and Wing. MTFD along with myself entered the residence, and MTFD began to work with Morris Township Patrol Officers on patient care.

Shortly after, Cedar Knolls First Aid Squad arrived on scene. EMTs Harrington and Waldron grabbed the LUCAS machine and additional medical equipment and assisted MTPD and MTFD with patient care.

Atlantic Health Paramedics arrived on scene where they began advanced life saving measures.

Due to the teamwork, clear and concise communication amongst all on scene, the male regained pulses. The male was escorted to Morristown Medical Center where a Cath Lab activation was initiated.

I believe the training and teamwork on scene, which included the immediate start of CPR and medical intervention by MTFD, MTPD, and CKFAS, contributed to the

male regaining pulses. I believe EMTs Harrington and Waldron should be recognized for a Life Saving Award.

As of today's date, the male victim is alive and still continuing to receive medical treatment at Morristown Medical Center.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Asst. Chief McGuinness indicated that the employees were recognized.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes from the April 3, 2025 Regular Meeting were reviewed.

Amendments to the Previous Minutes: None.

Commissioner Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 3, 2025 Regular Meeting, seconded by Commissioner DeSimone. All were in favor.

The minutes from the March 18, 2025 Special Meeting were reviewed.

Amendments to the Previous Minutes: None.

Commissioner DeSimone made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2025 Special Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Gallagher. All were in favor.

The minutes from the March 20, 2025 Executive Session were reviewed.

Amendments to the Previous Minutes: None.

Commissioner Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2025 Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Gallagher. All were in favor. Commissioner Keyser abstained.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: Commissioner Dugan Sr. distributed the April 2025 interim P&L which shows that through 33% of the year, the District has spent 38% of the budget. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the District has made the annual Employer Pension payment which has skewed the percentage but this will hopefully even out over the year.

Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the total amount of the bills paid at tonight's meeting is \$35,496.21.

Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the District is on track to make it through the year but it is going to be another tight year where in the 4th quarter the District may not be able to make the equipment purchases that are budgeted. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the District has had to pay some unanticipated bills for apparatus maintenance and workers compensation audit

adjustments that have put these accounts over budget for the year.

Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the money that the District was hoping to have at the end of the year may be very limited due to these additional expenses.

Report of Fire Commissioner Board Committees and Chief of Department:

MONTHLY REPORTS: Commissioner Keyser reported that the Board received the Chief's report and asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Keyser reported that he liked the YTD call volume figures shown in the report but asked the Chief if he could break them down between District 2 and District 3. Asst. Chief McGuinness indicated he could break out those figures.

Commissioner Keyser reported that the report indicated that Asst. Chief McGuinness is reorganizing the staging of the Mutual Aid truck which is currently at Whippany firehouse but that he is looking into potentially moving it to Morris Plains or Morris Township. Commissioner Keyser asked for confirmation that Asst. Chief McGuinness is just looking into this option. Asst. Chief McGuinness confirmed that he is just looking into it. Commissioner Harrington asked why the District would consider moving an ambulance out of Town. Asst. Chief McGuinness reported that the truck would then potentially get a higher call volume. Commissioner Harrington reported that he is concerned about our residents. Commissioner Keyser noted that this would be the 2nd ambulance so the 1st ambulance would still service the residents. Commissioner Harrington reported that it was his understanding that the 2nd ambulance would be stationed in Whippany for better response time for the residents on that side of Town. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the 2nd ambulance was stationed in Whippany because it made more sense to have the 2 ambulances staged in separate locations. Commissioner Harrington agreed with the logic of having the 2 ambulances staged at separate locations but was concerned to hear that one might be staged at a location outside the Town. Commissioner Harrington asked that Asst. Chief McGuinness review the out of Town staging option and submit a report to the Board. Asst. Chief McGuinness reported that this is exactly what he is planning to do. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the District is in a crunch for money and the only income that the District has is fire inspections and EMS. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that in order to stay alive the District needs to run as much EMS as possible. Commissioner Dugan Sr. noted that the EMS income covers the cost of EMS service. Commissioner Harrington reported that he does not want the District to run a paid EMS service operation out of our

District. Commissioner Gallagher felt that the District should consider staging the 2nd ambulance where it is most likely to go out on calls and therefore make money instead of choosing a location within the Town where the ambulance could potentially spend more time sitting. Commissioner Gallagher noted the cost of the 2nd ambulance is the same either way but there is no offsetting income when the ambulance just sits. Commissioner Gallagher felt that it would be better to attempt to generate some income to offset the cost of running the ambulance and potentially put some money in the bank. Commissioner Dugan S. agreed. Commissioner Gallagher reported that it would be beneficial to track the amount of time that the ambulance sits in Whippany without getting a call and potentially generating some income. Commissioner Gallagher reported that the District could potentially make some money by using the 3rd ambulance for paid transport because there seems to be a need for it. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the District is looking into it. Commissioner Gallagher felt that the District should consider this if it is allowed because the residents will be covered by the other 2 ambulances. Commissioner Keyser noted that the 3rd ambulance is sometimes used when one of the other ambulances is out for service. Commissioner Gallagher noted that the District would then not be able to accept paid transport jobs. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reiterated that the District is just starting to look into it. Commissioner Keyser felt that the District needs to find out if it can legally do paid transport. Commissioner Harrington felt that it will be a problem under Title 40 A. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that the District is in conversation with Coronis to get the answers to all of these questions and will hopefully be able to report back at the next meeting.

Commissioner DeSimone noted that the Chief's report indicated that he is looking into shift differentials which sometimes is a nice incentive for people working off shift hours but it does come with an expense. Commissioner DeSimone felt that if this is something that the Asst. Chief is looking to do then an analysis of the cost of adding a shift differential to off shift hours should be done so the expense can be added to the budget next year. Asst. Chief McGuinness noted that there is a current need for shift coverage especially nights and weekends. Commissioner Desimone reported that she understood but asked Asst. Chief McGuinness to do the costing so the Board can see what the District is looking at. Commissioner Keyser asked what the average hourly rate for is for Per Diem and Part Time EMTs. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that \$26/hr. is the starting rate for the Per diem EMTs and \$28/hr. is the starting rate for the Part Time EMTs. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that following a successful annual

performance review they get an additional \$.50/hr. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that the average rate for both Per Diem and Part Time EMTs is currently \$27.50.

Commissioner Keyser asked about the status of the Fire Prevention Ordinance. Asst. Chief McGuinness reported that it is in the Township's hands and he believes Mr. Giorgio is aware of the new law requirements but definitely Shawn Donnelly is.

EMS: Commissioner Keyser reported that he attended Fire District 2's meeting on April 14 because he heard rumblings that they were looking into Atlantic Health again. Commissioner Keyser reported that during the public portion of the meeting he asked if District 2 was in fact looking into Atlantic Health and the answer was yes, they are looking into it. Commissioner Keyser reported that he hopes to hold a Special Joint Board Meeting to discuss EMS and consolidation on April 29. Commissioner Keyser made a motion to advertise for a Special Joint Board Meeting on April 29 at the District 3 firehouse, seconded by Commissioner Dugan Sr. All were in favor.

BUDGET: Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the 2026 budget process will start in June or July. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that there will be certain figures that will not be available until later in the year but starting early will allow the District to get a feel for how much of a referendum the District will have to go for. Commissioner Keyser reported that the District is really constrained by the budget and should not go outside the budget unless something happens until September or October.

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

NEGOTIATIONS: Nothing to report.

LIAISON TO THE VOLUNTEERS: Nothing to report.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Commissioner Gallagher reported that the tent has been cleaned up and the contents are organized. Commissioner Gallagher reported that the firehouse grounds have also been cleaned up and look great. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that Lt. Belott's crew along with EMT Harrington and EMT Grilli handled this and did a very good job.

Commissioner Harrington asked if the light sensors on the outdoor lights had been fixed. Commissioner Gallagher reported that he and Commissioner Keyser

looked at the photo cell on the side of the building and felt that it was completely gone. Commissioner Gallagher reported that FF Colin is an electrician and is going to look at it on Sunday. Commissioner Gallagher reported that fixing the photo cell should correct the lights staying on all day.

Commissioner Gallagher reported that another item on his list was mulching. Mr. Hark Sr. offered to pay for and transport the mulch. Mr. Hark Sr. reported that he would figure out a weekend when people are around the firehouse to help spread the mulch that he will use the small loader to bring in. The Board thanked Mr. Hark Sr.

Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that he would like to paint the front of the shed and are currently getting samples to try and match the sides. Commissioner Gallagher felt this would make the visual more appealing. Commissioner Keyser noted that the whole firehouse needs to be painted but it is not in the budget for this year. Commissioner Gallagher noted that it is unfortunate because every year that it is not done there is more wood that is exposed. Commissioner Harrington reported that painting needs to be considered for the 2026 budget even if it needs to be through a referendum. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the District got a quote to paint the firehouse about 5 years ago which came in about \$87,000. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. noted that this would be a prevailing wage job and need to go out to bid. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that he has scaffolding that he will donate if the staff would like to paint some of the lower portion of the firehouse. Commissioner Dugan Sr. felt that this might be a way to save some of the exposed wood, especially at the bottom of the garage doors. Commissioner Dugan Sr. noted that this might save a little if the District only has to go out to bid for the 2nd floor up. Commissioner Keyser asked the committee to look into it.

Commissioner Keyser reported that KCG was in yesterday to service all the air conditioners.

APPARATUS/EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE: Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that nothing is broken down currently although the Board is paying a \$7900 maintenance bill tonight. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the engines are coming due for the annual preventive maintenance for around \$550 so he will speak with the bookkeeper about when this can be scheduled. Commissioner Harrington felt this was a decent price and reported that he spoke with the Chief and the Deputy Administrator about keeping track of the time and miles between preventative maintenance for each piece of apparatus.

Commissioner Harrington felt that this might allow the District to space out the maintenance a little and save some money.

INSURANCE: Nothing to report.

BY-LAWS: Commissioner DeSimone reported that the Board has a resolution before it tonight to adopt the amended By-Laws.

WEBSITE: Up to date.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that he distributed building plans 2 meetings ago. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that when the referendum and new building got voted down the Planning Committee changed direction and came up with some different plans. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that one plan was to change the Commissioner's Room into sleeping quarters but this would only be feasible if the building gets an elevator so that public meetings could take place on the 2nd floor. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that another plan was to try and do something with the ambulance bay for sleeping quarters or offices since the ambulances could be moved to the empty ladder truck bay. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the committee decided against this route because as a rule you should never give up bay space that protects your apparatus from the elements. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the committee decided to go with the building plan that he gave out 2 meetings ago. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that there are 2 phases to this plan, one outlined in yellow and the other in green. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the yellow phase, the 2nd floor sleeping quarters area, is what the committee felt could be done this year. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the green phase is what can be done if the District gets the Booker grant and would include an elevator, a 2nd floor meeting room, turn the existing Commissioner's Room into a Day Room, turn the existing Day Room into a gym, and have all the offices on the 3rd floor. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the committee came up with this plan because the residents made it clear that they did not want to give the District a lot of money. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that this plan uses the existing building footprint but makes the layout more user friendly. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the only difference would be to add a metal structure on the side of the building to replace the tent, the shed, and add bays for the command vehicles. Commissioner Dugan Sr. emphasized that the drawing that he distributed is just a plan and not a construction plan. Commissioner Dugan Sr. felt that some Board members may have felt that this plan is a done deal but it is not, it is the plan that the committee

came up with after the referendum and building plan were voted down. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that one of the complaints that the Board had with the last building plan was that the Board did not have any knowledge about them before they were presented to the public. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that this is why he shared these plans with the Board. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that he and the Board received a list of questions from Commissioner Keyser that he will go through and address but asked if anyone else had any questions on the plan. Commissioner Desimone said that she did not have any questions and commented that she understood that it is an idea that is being proposed but that nothing is cut in stone. Commissioner Harrington noted that he is on the Planning Committee and this is the first that he has seen these plans. Commissioner Harrington reported that he ran for this Board because a lot of people that voted the new building and referendum down asked him to run. Commissioner Harrington reported that he ran to get involved in this and he has not been involved in anything and that Commissioner Dugan Sr. keeps saying these plans were put together by the committee but he does not know who is on this committee. Commissioner Harrington noted that this committee that he is on is also the same one that got the plans voted down last time. Commissioner Harrington reported that he had conceptual plans also but that Commissioner Dugan Sr. does not even know what they are. Commissioner Dugan Sr. acknowledged this but noted that Commissioner Harrington has not shown them to him. Commissioner Harrington said that he has not been invited to a committee meeting. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that there has not been a committee meeting since Commissioner Harrington joined the Board and the meetings he referred to happened in 2024. Commissioner Harrington reiterated that he is now on the Planning Committee. Commissioner Keyser reported that there are only 2 people on the Planning Committee. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that there are other people who have involved with this committee and he does not think it is right to exclude them now. Commissioner Keyser reported that they have already made known what they want. Commissioner Harrington reported that the committee already knows what everyone wants and that he already knows what they want and what they need. Commissioner DeSimone asked Commissioner Dugan Sr. who was on the committee that came up with the building plans that he handed out. Commissioner Dugan Sr. that Deputy Administrator Hark Jr., Administrator Schultz, Lt. Belott, FF Waldron and the previous Chief were on the committee. Commissioner Keyser reported that everyone knows what the members of that committee wanted and now it is up to

Commissioner Dugan Sr. and Commissioner Harrington. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. asked that it be put on the record that the plans that Commissioner Dugan Sr. is discussing were put together by a committee that last met in October 2024 and there have been no Planning Committee meetings since then.

Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that there has not been a meeting since October 2024 because the District has been dealing with preparing the budget and trying to get it passed. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that he has seen Commissioner Harrington 3 times at the fire house in the 2 weeks since the 2024 plans were distributed and has not asked any questions about them.

Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that Commissioner Harrington's plan may be great but he has not shared them yet. Commissioner Harrington reported that Commissioner Dugan Sr. never asked him. Commissioner Keyser felt that Commissioner Dugan Sr. and Commissioner Harrington need to get together and discuss this. Commissioner Dugan Sr. agreed that they need to meet and that he is interested in seeing Commissioner Harrington's plans. Commissioner Gallagher suggested that the 2024 committee members not be dropped. Commissioner Gallagher recommended that Commissioners Dugan Sr. and Harrington meet and then bring the rest of the committee members in to share ideas. Commissioner Dugan Sr. agreed and reported that it is important to have a Fire Co.

representative on the committee because the Fire Co. needs to be aware if they may lose space on the 2nd floor. Commissioner Dugan Sr. felt that the 2024 committee had representative from all interested parties. Commissioner Keyser reported that a letter is required to be sent to the Fire Co. if they are losing space. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that he would like to address this along with the other questions that Commissioner Keyser sent him. Commissioner Keyser reported that he would like the answers in writing to the Board. Commissioner Dugan Sr. replied that he would like to go point by point now. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that it was brought up that the Fire Co. had not made any renovations to the 2nd floor because their space may change based on the District's building plans so the Fire Co. must be aware that the District is planning to renovate the building. Commissioner Dugan Sr. acknowledged that the Fire Co. does not know exactly what the plans are because the District is not there yet. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that all the points on Commissioner Keyser's list about having an engineer come and draw up plans are jumping the gun because the District is not there yet with the building plans. Commissioner Desimone felt that the plan that Commissioner Dugan Sr. distributed are based on suggestions that the 2024 committee put together and that after Commissioner

Harrington shares his ideas the plan may change. Commissioner Dugan Sr. agreed. Commissioner DeSimone felt that the next time the Board meets the building plan could be totally different. Commissioner Harrington felt that there should be a couple of ideas to present. Commissioner Keyser reiterated that he would like his list of questions addressed in writing. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that he will not be responding in writing. Commissioner Dugan Sr. showed old building renovation plans which he said indicated that the Fire Co. space on the 2nd floor would be affected. Commissioners Dugan Sr. and Harrington pointed out different aspects of the old plan. Commissioner Keyser told Commissioners Dugan Sr. and Harrington to meet to discuss this and bring a report back to the Board. Commissioner Gallagher reported that the 2024 proposed plan for the 2nd floor has been taped off and asked if this was shown or brought up at the last Fire Co. meeting. It was not shown at the Fire Co. meeting. Commissioner DeSimone noted that the tape is still there. Commissioner Gallagher suggested that when Commissioners Dugan Sr. and Harrington meet to discuss building plans that they tape off the various plans and then bring the crew to get their input. Commissioner Gallagher noted that if the Booker grant comes through the District needs to be ready to move on it. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that he has a report on the grant under Old Business. Commissioner Gallagher noted that he wants to make headway on the building plans because if the District is not ready to go if the grant is awarded then it will be lost. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that Commissioner Keyser's list states that the staff sleeping quarters were temporarily moved to the 2nd floor because the 3rd floor carpet smelled and this is not the only reason. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the staff also complained about the air quality, air conditioning and the heat. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the 3rd floor is difficult to cool and heat because of the barrel ceiling and some staff were waking up with nose bleeds. Commissioner Harrington reported that this is the first that he is hearing about this and he thought the issue was the carpet smell. Commissioner Keyser noted that staff is keeping the windows on the 2nd floor open with fans in the windows just like they did when they slept on the 3rd floor. Commissioner Keyser told Commissioners Dugan Sr. and Harrington to get together and come up with a couple of plans. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that he did not appreciate the way Commissioner Keyser handled it at the last meeting when he started to hand out his building plans and Commissioner Keyser put them aside and announced that the Board is not discussing them now. Commissioner Keyser reported that he did not want to look at or discuss anything that was not distributed ahead of

the meeting. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that he would have been happy to distribute the plans for review and felt that Commissioner Keyser's actions were childish. Commissioner Keyser disagreed.

LIASON TO EXEMPTS: Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that he has not been invited to the meetings so he has nothing to report.

RECORDS RETENTION: Commissioner Gallagher reported that the District is working to identify boxes of material that are ready for destruction.

LIAISON TO HANOVER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE: Committeeman Cahill reported that he was at the District 2 BFC meeting that Commissioner Keyser, Deputy Administrator Hark Jr., and other members of District 3 also attended. Committeeman Cahill reported that Commissioner Keyser did question the District 2 Board about whether they had approached Atlantic Health again regarding ambulance service. Committeeman Cahill felt that District 2 did not give a clear answer or one that he was satisfied with. Committeeman Cahill reported that after the meeting he reached out and spoke to each of the District 2 Commissioners because he thought the EMS service issue had been put to rest. Committeeman Cahill reported that while District 2 has reached out, Atlantic Health has not gotten back to them. Committeeman Cahill felt that Atlantic Health wanted nothing to do with Hanover Township because the 2 Districts are not in agreement and they do not want to get in the middle of it. Committeeman Cahill reported that he asked District 2 needs to make this not be a topic of discussion any further. Committeeman Cahill reported that the answer was in a perfect world having a rig stationed at the District 2 firehouse and not balance billing the District 2 residents, which is the same level of service that District 3 enjoys. Committeeman Cahill reported that he understands that this does not come without a cost. Committeeman Cahill reported that he is going to take this to the Township Committee and tell them that if we want even, balanced services across the Township the money is not coming from District 3, it will need to come from District 2 or the Township is going to have to help out. Committeeman Cahill reported that the reason he is telling the Board this is because he put this on the agenda for the Township Committee meeting on April 24th. Committeeman Cahill noted that it will be under Legal because the Township needs to understand what the Township's authorities are etc. Committeeman Cahill reported that he wanted to share with this Board the result of the communications that he had with District 2. Committeeman Cahill felt that the vast majority of the Township Committee are in favor of keeping our EMS local

and are not interested in having an outside agency get involved. Committeeman Cahill reported that the Township Committee will explore the possibilities the Township can do to help out and what the Township can do to encourage the 2 Districts. Committeeman Cahill felt that the general interest for the residents of this Town is to have District 3 be our own local EMS service provider.

Committeeman Cahill reported that he told District 2 that just the optics alone of having an Atlantic Health ambulance run around Whippany while Cedar Knolls has our very own folks for EMS would be public relations suicide and would not be a very popular thing. Committeeman Cahill also told District 2 that as a resident he would be more than happy to pay \$20 -\$30 more a month to bring this into one organization so that there is no balance billing. Committeeman Cahill reported that this is what he shared with each of the District 2 Commissioners, it will be discussed at the April 24th Committee Meeting and hopefully he will have more to share at the Joint Board meeting on April 29. Commissioner Harrington reported that the Township cannot financially help District 3 with EMS services because District 3 is paying their taxes so it would come out to District 3 paying double. Commissioner Harrington felt that the only way to go would be for District 2 residents to pay for EMS service through their taxes. Committeeman Cahill agreed that the District 3 residents would not be pay additional and noted that the discussions are in the preliminary phase and all the legalities need to be discussed. Committeeman Cahill reported that former District 3 Commissioner Cornine had provided some figures for how much District 3 would need to raise to provide EMS service to all Hanover Township without balance billing anyone but this figure would need to be provided by this Board. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that District 3 would calculate the figure and get it to Committeeman Cahill. Commissioner Dugan Sr. felt this was a very good idea. Commissioner Gallagher asked if there would be an update for the April 29 Joint Board meeting. Committeeman Cahill reported that no decisions will be made by that point and he just wants to make sure that the Committee is still on board as they were before and to understand the legalities for the Township to get involved from a tax perspective. Committeeman Cahill reported that the old process where the Township paid District 3 for District 2 EMS services needs to be reviewed but he is more inclined to have District 2 do a public relations blitz to get their residents on board with paying additional tax for EMS service. Committeeman Cahill reiterated that the Township needs to know what the cost of providing this service is from District 3. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the District will get that figure to him.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Keyser reported that Administrator Schultz sent a draft letter regarding the Rt. 24 situation to Mr. Cahill and Mr. Giorgio and are waiting to hear back from them.

Commissioner Keyser asked if there has been any progress on increasing the rent for the parking lot that the Post Office is renting from the District. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that the District reached out to them yesterday as they were supposed to send our request to enter discussions to their parent company. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that the Post Office responded that they have not yet heard back from the parent company but will keep the district in the loop.

Commissioner Keyser asked for a status report on the District driving policy. Asst Chief McGuinness reported that the draft District driving policy has been provided to the Board. Asst. Chief McGuinness reported that the policy meets all the requirements that District insurer VFIS has asked for and VFIS has been informed of the policy updates.

Commissioner Keyser asked if there was any other Old Business.

Commissioner DeSimone reported that at the last meeting the Board discussed the need to bring income into the District and Commissioner Dugan Sr. talked about non-emergency transport. Commissioner Desimone reported that there was another option brought up by a Per Diem where someone here would become an instructor and teach EMT classes here. Commissioner Desimone noted that during the last job posting process there was one or two individuals who could not apply because they did not have EMS due to the fact that they are still on a wait list to get into those classes. Commissioner DeSimone felt that having someone in house that can do that training benefits the District because we can charge students and get a better turn around for training our staff.

Commissioner DeSimone noted that the Per Diem that brought this up was even interested in being the instructor. Commissioner Harrington reported that this Per Diem was also going to bring back more information about the process to the Board. Commissioner DeSimone asked if Asst. Chief McGuinness would mind touching base with the Per Diem. Asst. Chief McGuinness reported that he would follow up with her. Commissioner Desimone felt this was an easy thing that the District could do while Commissioner Dugan Sr. looks into the non-emergency transport feasibility. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. clarified that the Per Diem EMT was talking about the District becoming a recognized training center. Asst. Chief McGuinness reported that becoming a recognized training center is very

easy to do and the District is already a recognized training center for Fire Safety so technically the District can host Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 classes here. Asst. Chief McGuinness reported that to become an EMS instructor is very difficult to do. Commissioner Desimone felt that the training piece should still be looked into. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that he checked with Sgt. Prach because at one time he was an EMT instructor and Sgt. Prach said that he is no longer an EMT instructor because it is so difficult to maintain. Commissioner Dugan Sr. felt it was still worth looking into but he tends to agree with Asst. Chief McGuinness that it will be both difficult to obtain and to maintain. Commissioner Gallagher agreed that the District should still look into it and that he is curious because the Per Diem seemed to think it would not be too hard. Commissioner Desimone felt the district should connect with the Per Diem and see what can be found out.

Commissioner Gallagher reiterated that he would like to see the EMS call numbers start to be tracked as he discussed earlier. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that the numbers are actively being tracked but that there is about a 3-month lag for the District EMS billing company to close out each call. Commissioner Gallagher asked to be provided with whatever numbers are available. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that he would get them to him.

Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that he and the Chief sat in on a webinar about the 2025 Booker Grant and were informed that the 2025 applications died on the vine. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that any applicant from 2025 that was recommended by the committee, which includes District 3, will be carried over to the 2026 Booker Grant process. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. felt that this combined with the fact that the District separately applied for the 2026 grant means that the District has a very good chance of being recommended to receive the grant in 2026. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that the District will not have an answer on that until some time in June. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. noted that he found out that depending on how the Dept. of Agriculture categorizes the District 3 application, the District cost share requirement is different. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that the population of the applicant territory. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that if the Dept. of Agriculture categorizes the application on District 3 alone then the population will be under 5000 and the District cost share percentage is 25%. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that if the Dept. of Agriculture categorizes the application as Hanover Township as whole then the population will be in the 12,000 people bracket and the cost share goes up to 50%. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that the District will know what the cost share will be when we

find out if the District application has been recommended in June. Commissioner Keyser asked if the District will have to ask the taxpayers to approve a special lien to raise the money. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that the District makes it through the federal approval process then the District will need to go out to the taxpayers and ask for them to approve the total amount of the grant and indicate the cost share amount that the taxpayers would need to pay. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. noted that the District will not know the amount of any grant awarded until December 2025 and will then probably need to have a Special Election asking the taxpayers to approve it. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that the District also has to educate the residents before the election so they understand what they are voting for. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. reported that if the District is recommended for the grant in June then the District will need to move forward with the Planning Committee building plans so that the District is shovel ready when the amount is finalized in December. Commissioner Keyser clarified that the Planning Committee has 2 things to work on; the building plans that were discussed earlier and plans for any grant money that the District may receive. Commissioner Dugan Sr. asked if anyone had a problem with the last architect that the District used. Deputy Administrator Hark Jr. noted that this firm is based in New Jersey, does a lot of work for local school districts, and the District has an existing relationship with them. Commissioner Dugan Sr. added that they also are familiar with the existing firehouse and came in under budget last time we used them. Commissioner Desimone asked for clarification that the architect will come up with new drawings based on the Planning Committee's new plans. Commissioner Dugan Sr. confirmed that the drawings would be based on the new plans and have nothing to do with the new building plans. Commissioner Dugan Sr. made a motion to allow the District to reach out to H2M Architectural firm, seconded by Commissioner Harrington. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Keyser indicated that the District is going to lose some Per Diem EMTs so the District will need to advertise to replace them. Asst. Chief McGuinness reported that this will be discussed in closed session.

REMINDERS: Commissioner Keyser reported that the District will need a Special Meeting for the Lieutenant hiring process and asked if everyone was available on May 6, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. Commissioner Harrington made a motion to have a Special Meeting on May 6, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. at the District 3 Firehouse, seconded by Commissioner Dugan Sr. All were in favor.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.

A Special Joint Fire Prevention Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. at the District 3 Firehouse.

The next scheduled Joint Fire Prevention Board Meeting will be held on Monday, June 9, 2025 at 6:30 P.M. at the District 2 Firehouse.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Ms. Atkinson reported that she heard a lot of good ideas tonight. Ms. Atkinson thanked Committeeman Cahill for bringing the EMS issue to the Township Committee and hoped that it all worked out between the two Districts. Ms. Atkinson asked that the Planning Committee set up their meeting and hoped there would be more planning and less drama.

Mr. Hark Sr. reported that he was approached by some people from Whippany who said that they had done a study which indicated that they could make money by going with Atlantic Health for EMS service. Mr. Hark Sr. reported that he was confused about whether the District 2 and District 3 fore tax is the same.

Commissioner Keyser reported that they are not the same as they are based on each District's budget and ratable. Mr. Hark Sr. asked if District 3 EMS is separate from District 3 Fire. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that EMS and Fire are together under District 3 in a combined budget. Mr. Hark Sr. asked if District 3 goes after District 2 residents for EMS balance after the insurance pays.

Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that District 3 sends a balance bill to District 2 residents but cannot go to collections. Mr. Hark Sr. asked if Atlantic Health can go to collections. The Board confirmed that Atlantic Health will go to collections.

Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that he does not know if District 2 has the authority to hire an EMS provider and he does not understand how this will save money because District 2 currently has no cost for EMS. Mr. Hark Sr.

acknowledged that an ambulance stationed at the District 2 firehouse will get to some District 2 residents more quickly than one responding for District 3 firehouse and asked if Atlantic Health would station there. The Board did not know what Atlantic Health would propose. Commissioner Keyser reported that it appears that District 2 would pay Atlantic Health to station an ambulance at their firehouse. Commissioner Gallagher asked how District 2 would make any money at the end of the day. Committeeman Cahill reported that it is not about the money. Mr. Hark Sr. asked if half of District 3s EMS calls were to District 2. Asst. Chief McGuinness reported that it is not 50% but they are a high percentage. Committeeman Cahill reported that the bottom line is that nothing can happen

because the Township passed a resolution naming District 3 as the EMS service for the entire Township. Committeeman Cahill reported that the only thing that can be done is to try and improve it. Mr. Hark Sr. asked for clarification that EMS makes money. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the taxes collected cover the fire and EMS salaries and the EMS income covers everything else.

RESOLUTIONS: Commissioner Gallagher read Resolution 25-04-17-43 authorizing the transition of S. Sakthi from Junior to Regular Membership. Commissioner Harrington made a motion to introduce the resolution, seconded by Commissioner DeSimone. All were in favor.

Commissioner Gallagher read Resolution 25-04-17-44 recognizing Title Change and Application of Terms of Employment. Commissioner DeSimone made a motion to introduce the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Harrington. All were in favor.

Commissioner Gallagher read Resolution 25-04-17-45 recognizing Title Change and Application of Terms of Employment. Commissioner Harrington made a motion to introduce the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Gallagher. All were in favor.

Commissioner Gallagher read Resolution 25-04-17-46 adopting the amended By-Laws. Commissioner DeSimone made a motion to introduce the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Harrington. All were in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Gallagher read Resolution 25-04-17-47 to enter into executive session. Commissioner Dugan Sr. made a motion to introduce the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Harrington. All were in favor.

The Board went into closed session at 8:35 p.m.

Personnel matters were discussed, and action will be taken.

The Board came out of closed session at 9:24 p.m.

Commissioner Harrington made a motion to move forward with Per Diem and Part Time EMT hiring process, seconded by Commissioner Dugan Sr. All were in favor.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Robert Gallagher, Secretary