

July 16, 2026 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 July 16, 2026 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 Dugan Sr., Thomas Harrington, MaryLou DeSimone, Robert Gallagher and Gary Keyser were present.

Administrator Hark Jr., Chief McGuinness and other District 3 staff and members of the public were also in attendance.

DEPART FROM NORMAL AGENDA: Board departed from normal agenda. John Dobos from Tranzon Auctions addressed the board, giving a brief presentation on how the auction process would work for selling the additional parking lot, at 20 Mountain Ave, which is currently owned by the fire district. John Dobos explained there is no cost to the district. A buyers premium is added to the final auction price which covers all costs including marketing. Commissioner Keyser asked how long the process takes. John stated it's about 4-6 weeks to put together the whole package. The auction itself is usually 10-14 days, with a deposit required upon auction close and a 30-day closing after that. Commissioner Keyser asked the board if they had any other questions for Mr. Dobos at this time. No further questions were asked. Mr. Dobos thanked the board for their time.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Mary Poole of Cedar Knolls asked if there was a update on the "investigation of both fire districts by the township" Commissioner Keyser responded that the third party consultant is still working on his report and there is no update at this time but that their would hopefully be one soon. Mary Poole then stated that District 2 has a much more prominent social media presence lately and recommended that District 3 "up their game" and increase social media posts and interactions as well. Deanna Atkinson of Cedar Knolls addressed the board and stated that she was happy to see the board is considering selling the additional lot since "you don't really need it and its just sitting there and doing nothing." Commissioner Keyser thanked Deanna for her comments and stated that the board is looking at all options.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Commissioner Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 4, 2026 Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Gallagher.

Commissioner DeSimone. made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 4, 2026 Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Dugan Sr.

Commissioner Dugan Sr made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2026 Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Harrington. Commissioner DeSimone abstained due to being absent at the meeting.

Commissioner Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2026 Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Gallagher. Commissioner DeSimone abstained due to being absent at the meeting.

Commissioner Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2026 Special Session, seconded by Commissioner Dugan Sr. Commissioner Gallagher abstained due to being absent at the meeting.

Commissioner Dugan Sr. made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2026 Special Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Harrington. Commissioner Gallagher abstained due to being absent at the meeting.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: No report.

Report of Fire Commissioner Board Committees and Chief of Department:

MONTHLY REPORTS: Chief McGuinness recognized the staff and volunteers that responded to the over 50 calls that took place fourth of July weekend due to the storms. Chief then reported on the District's new ISO rating. The District's rating went from a three to a four, largely due to us no longer having a ladder truck.

EMS: No report.

BUDGET: Commissioner Dugan Sr. Reported that budget meetings continue. We are currently still operating within budget at this time.

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

NEGOTIATIONS: No report.

LIAISON TO THE VOLUNTEERS: Commissioner Harrington reported that he has nothing to report at this time as he is still awaiting to meet with Deputy Chief Costello who is traveling.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Commissioner Gallagher reported that the weekend crew did a great job cleaning up the grounds and taking care of the vine going up the building.

APPARATUS/EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE: Commissioner Harrington reported that all the brakes have been replaced on the ambulances. A39 is set to have the air conditioning repaired at Peace of Mind once the batteries are fixed.

INSURANCE: No report.

BY-LAWS: No report.

WEBSITE: Up to date.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: No report.

RECORDS RETENTION: Scheduled for August.

LIAISON TO HANOVER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE: Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: Administrator Hark reported that Sonitrol is coming to replace the access system on the 21st. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that everyone had a copy of the sewer system repair/replacement quotes in front of them. Board discussed and agreed to pursue additional quotes at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Harrington reported that he was approached at the 200 club event last week and thanked by a resident who said she uses our services frequently and wanted it noted that no matter who the crew is, they are very sweet and professional.

REMINDERS:

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

There will be a Joint Fire Prevention meeting on Thursday September 3, 2026 at 6:30 P.M. at the District 3 Firehouse.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Gallagher read Resolution 26-07-16-91 to enter into executive session. Commissioner DeSimone made a motion to

introduce the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dugan Sr. All were in favor.

The Board went into closed session at 7:37 p.m.

Personnel matters were discussed, and action will be taken.

The Board came out of closed session at 8:32 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS: No additional resolutions.

Commissioner Dugan Sr. Made a motion to move forward with the selling of the additional lot at 20 Mountain Ave. Seconded by Commissioner Gallagher. Commissioner DeSimone opposed.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Commissioner DeSimone., seconded by Commissioner Gallagher, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Robert Gallagher, Secretary