

**The Monthly Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners
District #3, in the Township of Hanover,
County of Morris, Cedar Knolls, New Jersey
September 2, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on September 2, 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

The Board stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief James Davidson was also in attendance along with Assistant Chief – EMS, Robert O’Hare and Committeeman George Coppola.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the August 5, 2010 regular monthly meeting. There were no corrections. **Commissioner Keyser made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted from the August 5, 2010 regular monthly meeting, seconded by Commissioner Pilipie, all in favor.**

Next was the approval of the minutes from the August 19, 2010 monthly work session. There were no corrections. **Commissioner Keyser made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted from the August 19, 2010 monthly work session, seconded by Commissioner Pilipie, all in favor.**

Old Business

Commissioner Pilipie read **Resolution 10-09-02-30 authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement with the Town of Morristown regarding the Regional Safety and Accountability System Grant, a regional venture with Hanover Township Fire District No. 2, the Morris Township Fire Department, The Morris Plains Fire Department and the Morristown Fire Bureau for purposes of increasing emergency responder safety and accountability at emergency scenes. A motion was made by Commissioner Keyser to accept the Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Quirk, all in favor. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioners Keyser, Harrington, Pilipie and Quirk voting in favor with Commissioner Martin absent.**

Commissioner Pilipie then read **Resolution 10-09-02-29 voiding 14 outstanding checks which had not been cashed dating from 2004 through 2008. The Resolution was introduced by Commissioner Keyser, seconded by Commissioner Pilipie, all in**

favor. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioners Keyser, Harrington, Pilipie and Quirk in favor with Commissioner Martin absent.

Chairman Harrington asked Commissioner Pilipie if there was an update regarding the awards keychains for recognizing outstanding efforts by volunteer members. The Commissioner said he had looked at three different keychains, but they were too small for the engraving or for a Maltese Cross which the Commissioner had wanted. He said he was going to follow-up to see if the company had any other suggestions.

Chairman Harrington reminded the Board that they were going to speak with Mr. Knapp, the Board's labor attorney, regarding what other departments do when firemen have health problems and cannot perform their duties. Mr. Knapp was currently on vacation so the Chairman said he would try to get in touch with him after Mr. Knapp returns and have some information for the Board by the next work session.

The Board had previously agreed that they would pay for the cost of Chief Davidson's hotel room expenses for three days during the New Jersey State Fireman's Association's convention along with a \$50.00 reimbursement for expenses/meals for those 3 days, but they could not vote on it previously until a regular monthly meeting. **Commissioner Keyser made a motion to have the Board pay for 3 days of hotel room costs during the New Jersey State Fireman's Association in Wildwood for Chief Davidson to attend the convention along with \$50.00/day for miscellaneous expenses and/or meals, seconded by Commissioner Pilipie, all in favor.**

The Chairman asked Chief Davidson if the NIMS lettering for the fire cars have been completed and the Chief said it had been completed.

Chairman Harrington asked Chief Davidson if he had looked into the pricing from Royal Communications on the siren that was not working and the Chief said he would look into it when he comes back from vacation.

The Chairman indicated that Commissioner Keyser had asked what the Board was going to do with the \$70,000.00 which was earmarked for capital purchases that was in the Board's budget and Chairman Harrington suggested putting it back in for capital outlay. Commissioner Keyser said the Board's Financial Advisor, Robert Calise, was currently on vacation, but Commissioners Keyser and Harrington were set to meet with him before the next Board meeting.

Chairman Harrington indicated that he had looked into the Safer Grant that had been discussed at the Fire Prevention Bureau's August 26, 2010 meeting where they had decided that each fire district would put in for their own Safer Grant. The Chairman felt that they should apply for the grant to receive money to hire two career men for two years and then the department would have to pay their salaries for the third year. There was discussion on whether the new hires could have their job requirements expanded at some point from Firefighter to Firefighter/EMT. Chief Davidson said he would have to

write a narrative in which he could expand the hiree's responsibilities. The grant would have to be submitted by September 17, 2010. **Commissioner Pilipie made a motion to have Chief Davidson prepare the grant application/narrative to apply for the Safer Grant and submit it by Tuesday, September 14, 2010, seconded by Commissioner Keyser, all in favor.** Commissioner Keyser asked Chief Davidson if the Board would have to put a dollar amount that they would pay the hiree in the grant request and, when they work on the budget, would they have to incorporate that dollar amount into the Board's budget. The Chief said the Board should check with Mr. Calais, the Board's Financial Advisor, but he believes that it would be done the same way as when the Board applied with SEMA for the AFG grant. The grant has to have the salary amount and the benefits.

Commissioner Keyser asked for the status regarding physicals for the membership and Chief Davidson said the Board needs to approve the packet that Dr. Manis had put together and had given them. The plan was to categorize each individual, but the Board needs to approve it before any action can be taken. The Board said they would look at it and vote to approve it at the next regular monthly meeting. Chief Davidson said he would be happy to move forward on physicals for the volunteers. The Chairman asked the Chief to see what Dr. Manis needs to start the program and the Chief said that Dr. Manis is ready to go. Commissioner Pilipie indicated that they need to contact Mr. Knapp, the Board's labor attorney, who should be able to direct the Board on how to handle any personnel who do not pass their physicals.

Next, the Board had an indepth, lengthy discussion on narrow banding and frequency issues, pros and cons and cost analysis. Chief Davidson clarified many points on what is involved. He said that the department cannot operate the way they are currently operating after January 1, 2013. Chief Davidson said he will start working with Chief Cortright. The Chief indicated that he had a preliminary conversation with Royal Communciation in which they said they can handle or manage the FCC application for the narrow banding and they can get some quotes on what it will cost. The Board asked Chief Davidson to get a frequency finder.

Commissioner Quirk said he had made the adjustments to the by-laws that the Board agreed on and he had sent it to the attorney via e-mail to review.

New Business

Commissioner Quirk indicated that he had been at the firehouse recently when one of the firefighters was getting measured for turnout gear. When the firefighter went to get his gear, he discovered things were missing from his pockets and from his equipment. Commissioner Quirk said that it could put firefighters in a dangerous situation because they think they have all of their equipment and then find out that they don't have items like flashlights, etc. and other equipment that is needed to do their jobs. The Commissioner suggested putting another camera there. Chairman Harrington said he had heard about this and he had asked Robert Lake to go through everyone's gear and equipment, but he did not find anything. The Chief said there was a designated Lost and

Found box after the recent fire. Also, sometimes it's just carelessness on the fireman's part and, sometimes, after a fire call such as the last one, everyone is exhausted and not thinking about making sure all of their equipment is where it should be. Chief Davidson recommended putting at least 3 or 4 cameras in the ambulance bay, engine bay and truck bay. The Chief said that the building is unsecured many times while personnel are out on calls -- more cameras probably won't stop equipment being missing, but it might be a deterrent. The Board asked the Chief to call and get a price on cameras.

Commissioner Keyser asked Chief Davidson how many sets of turnout gear he was planning on purchasing this year and the Chief said that he purchased about \$10,000.00 worth of gear last year and budgeted \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00 for this year, but that the NFPA changed their standard this year. Current gear will be expiring in 6 months so the Chief doesn't want to buy new gear until the change goes into effect. The most active interior firefighters are being taken care of first with up to date gear and now they are ordering for the next level of need for firefighters. There was discussion on how to handle this. Chief Davidson was asked if he had a rough budget ready for next year and he said he did not. Chairman Harrington asked if he could have it ready for the next work session on Tuesday, September 14th and he asked Commissioner Keyser if Mary Keyser could have her information on the first 9 months ready also. The Chairman said he would like to go over some line items at the next work session also.

Commissioner Keyser said that Rocco Siino called and indicated that he would like to go over life insurance prices for the next year. The Commissioner indicated to Commissioner Quirk that he would try to get a couple of dates that Mr. Siino would be available and try to see if the three of them could get together to discuss coverage.

Chairman Harrington reminded the Commissioners that the next work session would be on **Tuesday, September 14, 2010** because the New Jersey State Firemen's Convention in Wildwood will be on the Board's regular meeting night which is Thursday, September 16, 2010.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Keyser reported that checks #4163 – 4207 were paid in the amount of \$135,207.32 for the month of August 2010. **Commissioner Pilipie made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Quirk, all in favor.**

Chairman Harrington asked if anyone from the public had anything to discuss. Committeeman George Coppola noted that he had accompanied the Mayor and Police Chief to a presentation by the County. They all did not see the need to switch to County dispatch at this time. Home rule is still a driving force. Mr. Coppola indicated, however, that it is just a matter of time before they ultimately will have to go to the County.

There was no other business to discuss. **A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Pilipie at 8:12 PM, seconded by Commissioner Quirk, all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Paul Pilipie, Secretary