

**The Monthly Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners
District #3, in the Township of Hanover,
County of Morris, Cedar Knolls, New Jersey
February 3, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on February 3, 2011 in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975, Chapter 231.

Attendees: Commissioners Thomas Harrington, Joseph Martin, Paul Pilipie and Thomas Quirk

Absent: Commissioner Gary Keyser

Chief James Davidson, Committeeman George Coppola, Liaison to the Fire Department, and Rocco Siino, the Board's insurance agent, were present along with Peter DeNegris who was present from the public.

The Board stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the January 3, 2011 Special Meeting. **Commissioner Martin made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted from the January 3, 2011 Special Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Pilipie, all in favor.**

Next was the approval of the minutes from the January 6, 2011 regular monthly meeting. **Commissioner Martin made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted from the January 6, 2011 regular monthly meeting, seconded by Commissioner Pilipie, all in favor.**

The next order of business was the approval of the **Personnel** minutes from the January 6, 2011 regular monthly meeting. **Commissioner Quirk made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted from the January 6, 2011 regular monthly meeting under Personnel, seconded by Commissioner Martin, all in favor.**

Last was the approval of the minutes from the January 20, 2011 monthly work session. **Commissioner Quirk made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted from the January 20, 2011 monthly work session, seconded by Commissioner Martin, all in favor.**

Chairman Harrington indicated that he had been in touch with Fire District #2's Chairman, Henry Hansch, and the Board has since received everything in writing regarding the two payments during 2011 to assist with the EMS services to the Township. An \$18,000.00 payment will be made in January and the second payment will be \$17,000.00 to be paid in March. They also agreed to keep the EMS program in effect as

it is now with their EMTs assisting as needed. The check for January will be coming soon since Chairman Harrington signed the vouchers which were required by District #2.

The Chairman said that Chief Davidson and he had met with a vendor in Edison that the Board had used previously to purchase past equipment to discuss prices on a new pumper. Chairman Harrington said he had checked again on the Lease/Purchase on the vehicles and he was put in touch with Oshkosh Capital which is the financing company which finances Pierce Manufacturing equipment. Their representative sent prices on a pumper costing \$360,000.00 for a seven year annual payment @ 3.88% with a payment of \$57,614.00/annually. Now a comparison to other vendors' prices can be made -- the Board has appointments with two other vendors. The Board's attorney will review everything.

Chairman Harrington indicated that the Board had discussed at the last meeting that they could try to switch the engines around so that the older engine would be the second one out. However, it was determined that it would cost too much money to do that. If the Board gets approval for the purchase at the February election, the Board cannot use that money until 2012. However, if they take delivery in 2011, the fire engine could be used in 2011, but the first payment can be whenever they want in 2012. Payments could be made annually in March because the budgets are approved in February. Pierce always gives "discounts" – in this case, Pierce would give a \$13,000.00 credit if paid entirely up front or, for instance, something else could be credited such as a chassis. The Chairman will ask the other two companies who are they are scheduled to see what their prices are and if they also have any "discounts".

Commissioner Keyser was going to call Hartford Boiler Insurance again to see what they need to get some valves and other things to fix the boiler system to get approved for the State boiler license. The Chief said he would talk to Commissioner Pilipie to discuss this further.

The Chairman asked if there was anyone from the public who wanted to speak and Committeeman Coppola responded saying they are waiting for more information from the County regarding the County Communications Center. There is a budget meeting scheduled for the 19th. The Township will be going eventually to the new system, but not right now. He said he is not for moving the dispatchers – he doesn't see a benefit to that. He is working with the people from the County to see if they can work something out regarding that. Chairman Harrington emphasized that the Fire Districts need to know what the Township is doing and they must know by July 2011 because they have to change their radios by 2013. If the Township goes to the County and the Fire District goes with the Township, the district will only change their radios to go to the County. The district will have changed to narrowbanding which the government will be mandating and then would have to change over to the County system if the Township chooses to go in 2014. The Chairman said the Fire Districts need to be kept informed because they will have to know which way to go – either to the County if the Township goes by 2013 or the Fire District will need to change their radios. Peter DeNegris asked Committeeman Coppola if the Township was going to contribute anything for this

conversion. Chairman Harrington said they would pay for their radios like they always have, but they can't go to the County by themselves because the County wants everyone to go together. Chairman Harrington emphasized to Committeeman Coppola that the Fire Districts have always been under the Township umbrella and that any fees incurred for going to the County should be paid by the Township. Mr. DeNegris also made a point that there should be a cost savings to the Township even if it's just on salaries, insurance, etc. The Chairman emphasized that it is imperative that the Fire Districts be kept informed on what the Township plans to do regarding going to the County.

Old Business

Commissioner Pilipie referred to the Chief's memo of January 26, 2011 regarding drug testing information. The Board discussed having the Chief write a program and then forwarding it to their attorney, Fred Knapp, Esq., for review. Commissioner Martin felt very strongly that the Board's lawyer should write it up and make it in compliance to what is required since Mr. Knapp, most likely, will have a template already and he will be able to handle everything that is required relative to Attorney General guidelines regarding what is needed to be in compliance regarding drug laws. Chief Davidson was asked to contact Mr. Knapp and have him handle the preparation regarding what is needed to be in compliance.

Commissioner Martin relayed that he was here during the some of the physicals for the department members and that Access Health had been extremely pleased with how the physicals were handled saying that District #3's membership's cooperation, how they handled themselves and how smoothly the operation went were one of the best departmental physicals that they have ever been involved in. The Commissioner suggested sending a note to the Second Floor commending them on how they handled themselves for these physicals. The Chief added that Dr. George Manis said that 82% of the department went through the physicals with Access Health which was an outstanding number relative to compliance especially because some new members had just had physicals and a couple of other people chose to go through their own doctors. One or two Interior Firefighters have not had a physical yet, but said they will do so on their own.

Commissioner Martin asked for an update on the sanitizer in the bathroom. He knew that the flush valve broke, but the plumber fixed that. Commissioner Keyser was not in attendance so they will address the sanitizer at the next meeting. There was also discussion on other work being done on the Second Floor regarding a breaker. The Chief said he knows that Horan Electric came, but he didn't know the outcome and Commissioner Keyser would know more about that also.

New Business

Chairman Harrington indicated that Reverend Tony McNaughton has been with Hildale Church for 40 years and he has been the department's Chaplain for at least 30 years and has been available for funerals and any other functions the department required. He also, in earlier years, had driven the ambulance for awhile. Members of Hildale are having a dinner on March 20, 2011 at 5:00 PM celebrating his 40 years as their pastor. Chairman Harrington felt that the department should present a plaque commemorating his contribution to the department and the Chairman asked if the Board and Chief Davidson would be willing to go to this dinner to honor Rev. McNaughton. The Board heartily agreed that they would like to go and that a plaque should be presented to Rev. McNaughton. They also agreed that the Board should do something for him at the department's Memorial Day picnic in May.

Next on the agenda were new resolutions to be voted on. Commissioner Pilipie read **Resolution 11-02-03-07 authorizing approval of an Interlocal Agreement with the Township of Hanover in which the Fire District, when necessary, would purchase gasoline and diesel fuel from the Township of Hanover in order to provide services to the Township. A motion was made by Commissioner Martin to accept the resolution as read, seconded by Commissioner Quirk, all in favor. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor with the exception of Commissioner Keyser who was absent.**

Commissioner Pilipie then read **Resolution 11-02-03-08 approving transfer of appropriations within the 2010 Fire District Budget in the amount of \$84,477.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Quirk, all in favor approving the transfer of appropriations. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor with the exception of Commissioner Keyser who was absent.**

Chairman Harrington addressed Rocco Siino from Oxford Insurance to discuss and explain the problem that had recently occurred and what had happened with the career personnel's health insurance last month. Mr. Siino indicated that he had been the broker on the health and dental accounts for the career personnel for 8 years and he has had a strong working relationship in the past which he hoped was not affected because of this interruption in service. Commissioner Keyser, at the January 20, 2011 monthly work session, felt that Mr. Siino could have handled this problem better. Mr. Siino was present to explain what had happened and why and how to have this problem not occur again. There was an interruption stemming from the December Accounts Payable information which affected the career personnel from January 15th through January 21st. Mr. Siino said he had had communication with Chief Davidson and others who were affected by this problem. He said he had ordered a full reconciliation and distributed copies so that the Commissioners could see exactly what had happened. Apparently, on December 1, 2010, the insurance company billed the Commissioners \$8,819.95, but the Board only paid the regular monthly payment of \$6,907.00 which meant that the bill was paid, but not in full. Robert Lake had recently been added to the Oxford Insurance policy and that is the reason that the amount changed. Mr. Siino said that the company does not send

anything to him prior to any problems which would enable him to contact a client. In addition, the Board already sent this month's payment so a credit will be due. The Board agreed to go to automatic pay for the future which would prevent a lapse in coverage in the future. The Board will check with Sylvio Esposito, the Township's treasurer, to see if there is any reason why the Board cannot use the automatic pay deduction service for salaries. Commissioner Quirk asked that Mr. Siino send the paperwork for automatic pay deduction so that they can get this going as soon as possible once approved by Mr. Esposito. **Commissioner Martin made a motion to check with Mr. Esposito to see if it is alright to have the money electronically deducted by Oxford Insurance from the Board's bank account in which case the Board would proceed with the paperwork needed to go to automatic pay deduction, seconded by Commissioner Quirk, all in favor.**

There was no other business to discuss. **Commissioner Martin made a motion to adjourn at 8:01 PM, seconded by Commissioner Quirk, all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Paul Pilipie, Secretary