

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Montgomery Township Fire District No. 2
PO Box 264
Blawenburg, New Jersey 08504

MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

The scheduled meeting of the Board was called to order by Commissioner Laughlin at 7:32 pm, following proof of publication under the Open Public Meetings Law (Annual Meeting Notice published in the official newspaper of the district, posted at the Montgomery Township Municipal Building and the Board offices).

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners L. Laughlin, C. Lewis, C. Kabis , D. Cummings and D. Davis. Also present: Chief Ballinger, Attorney Griswold and T. Stys.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed and discussed the minutes of the May 4, 2012 meeting.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the May 4, 2012 meeting with the following corrections: under the Chief's Report, the registration renewal was for 46-156 and under Old Business, the narrow banding will affect the UHF 475-512 MgH spectrum and the County Fire Coordinator is Doug Rue.

Motion made by Cummings. 2nd by Kabis. Motion passed without objection.

TREASURER'S REPORT

BILLS

A copy of the Treasurer's Report (attached) was made available to each commissioner with a list and description of the bills to be paid. The Chief Financial Officer certified that there were sufficient unencumbered funds to pay the bills and designated the accounts to which each would be charged. The \$497.43 insurance premium paid to Nottingham Insurance will be reimbursed to the fire district by the fire company, as it represents an increase in building coverage due to the new solar panels.

- The payment to Atlantic Detroit Diesel-Allison was for the repair of the computer module on 46-107.
- The 1st quarter tax payment of \$192,325.00 was deposited into the TD Bank equity account.
- The treasurer requested a transfer of \$60,000.00 to the checking account for the purpose of paying the bills.

A motion was passed to accept the Treasurer's Report, to transfer funds, and to approve payment of the bills.

Motion made by Kabis. 2nd by Laughlin. Motion passed without objection.

RESOLUTION 2012-27 Payment of Bills/ Transfer of Funds. *Approval to pay the bills as presented, in the total amount of \$47,830.29, all from 2012 funds, and to transfer \$60,000.00 from the TD Bank equity account to the TD Bank checking account.*

Resolution Ayes: Laughlin, Lewis, Kabis, Cummings, Davis. Nays: None Absent: None.

The commissioners requested Ms. Stys review last year's insurance bills to estimate what charges can be expected for the remainder of this year in an effort to ascertain the current status of the 2012 insurance appropriation compared to probable upcoming charges.

The auditor inquired into the status of 2010 encumbered Supplies funds for a Bow-Flex Tread Climber (\$2804.14) and a Hurst Combi-Tool (\$7960.00). These purchases have been cancelled and the funds released to the general surplus. Ms. Stys will inform the auditor.

CHIEF'S REPORT

The fire company responded to 43 calls during May, 2012.

- Hose testing was completed – the 5” hose that failed is being repaired in-house and the chief will report back with his recommendation as to whether the 3” rubber hose that failed should be repaired or replaced with a lighter weight more versatile style hose (there is an adequate supply of 3” hose now, so there is no urgency).

- Pump testing is scheduled for June 11th.

- Mutual aid training will be done with Princeton on June 16th.

- The fire company participated in Hopewell's and Neshanic's Memorial Day parades. It took an award for Best Appearing Fire Department in Hopewell's parade.

- The fire company will cover the Montgomery and Bedens Brook fireworks.

At the request of the mayor, Chief Ballinger is serving on a committee researching the consolidation of local police departments into a county organization. There are a number of elements to consider, and at this time it appears consolidation would provide few, if any, cost savings and would involve complex and burdensome collective bargaining issues.

Conversion of the fire report software is complete and is working well. There may be a need for temporary clerical help to input data into the new software. The chief will report back to the board.

There was a lightening strike during the month that affected the junction box for the UHF radio base station and two other radio remote stations. Surge protectors were unable to prevent the damage. To repair the junction box should cost about \$600; the remote stations should cost about \$800 each. M&W Communications, the installer of the equipment, would do the repairs. Repairs should be covered by insurance, should the board decide to pursue same (the policy has a \$1000 deductible). This is the second or third time in recent history that the station has suffered a lightening strike. The chief posited it might make sense to ask the fire company to investigate the cause and avoidance/arresting options available to prevent future occurrences, particularly given the volume of electronic devices in use in the fire station, the repercussions of 'out of service time' for electronics if affected by a strike, and the fact that insurance may be discontinued if too many claims for this type damage are made. Questions regarding whether the new solar panels may increase the propensity for lightening strikes, the grounding of the siren tower, and whether the solar panels on PSE&G poles could cause low voltage to the fire station should be researched.

A Motion passed authorizing Chief Ballinger to pursue an insurance claim for the damage to the radio stations as a result of the recent lightning strike and authorizing Commissioner Davis to ask the fire company to research and present alternatives for lightning arresting systems to avoid damage to essential equipment in the future.

Motion made by Laughlin.

2nd by Kabis.

Motion passed without objection.

At a brush fire (mutual aid) at Coventry Farms a few months ago some of the district's 6” hard suction hose was used to help build a crossing across a brook. Princeton Fire has offered to replace the hose, the lowest quote for which is \$635.00. In light of the nature of mutual aid cooperation the board determined it would not look for reimbursement.

The chief will follow up with Rocky Hill regarding reimbursement for its share of the ladder testing costs.

OLD BUSINESS

Preparation of an ordinance addressing the need for fire safety inspections on a change of occupancy or other transfer of multi-unit rental properties is underway at the township level.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The chief's cell phone needs replacement. On Verizon's government contract the cost is \$37.48, with a small charge for data entry transfer.
2. Now that the fire reports are being moved to the new fire program all the information is accessible remotely. The chief requested an iPad 3 to be dedicated solely for fire use in the chief's vehicle to allow this access. Per the Verizon government contract a 64 GB iPad 3 costs \$829.99, with a \$39.99 monthly unlimited data plan. Accessories will be necessary (case, charging cord, etc.) that are only available from Apple and should not cost more than \$125.00.
3. Annual firefighter physicals need to be scheduled. Professional Health Services is familiar with our specifications, comes to the station to provide services, and maintains all our members' records. For roughly 40 physicals the cost will not exceed \$11,000.00.
4. There is a need for a 10' length of 6" PVC suction hose with 6" Storz folding LH. The lowest of three quotes is from Absolute Fire Protection at \$635.00, including freight (Tasc Fire Apparatus \$560.00, plus freight; Continental Fire & Safety \$659.78, including freight).
5. The wireless FireCom system on 46-156 is hard to work when wearing gear, goggles, etc. The chief recommends the system be moved to the brush truck, as it will enable that truck's operators to hear fireground communications when pumping (they hear nothing now). M&W Communications (sole provider for FireCom in this area) will charge time and materials to change the system from one truck to the other. \$1000.00 should cover all costs.

A Motion passed to move forward with the foregoing expenditures (no. 1-5 above)

Motion made by Kabis.

2nd by Davis.

Motion passed without objection.

Resolution 2012-28 Authorizing expenditures.

A Resolution passed authorizing the following expenditures:

1. *Purchase a cell phone for the chief on Verizon's government contract #204526 at a cost not to exceed \$50.00, chargeable to the 2012 General Operating appropriation.*
2. *Purchase an iPad 3 at a cost of \$829.99 from Verizon pursuant to its government contract #204526, and assorted Apple accessories from Apple (sole source provider) at a cost not to exceed \$125.00, the entire purchase not to exceed \$955.00, and be chargeable to the 2012 Supplies appropriation. In addition, to subscribe to Verizon's unlimited data plan at a cost not to exceed \$40.00 per month, chargeable to the 2012 General Operating appropriation*
3. *Encumber \$11,000.00 for roughly 40 firefighter physicals, blood tests, record keeping, etc., by Professional Health Services, Inc, as a professional services contract, chargeable against the 2012 General Operating appropriation.*
4. *Purchase one (1) ten foot length of 6" PVC suction hose with 6" Storz folding LH, pursuant to lowest quote, from Absolute Fire Protection, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$535.00, including freight, chargeable to the 2012 Supplies appropriation.*
5. *Authorize M&W Communications, Inc., as sole provider, to move the Firecom system from 46-156 to the brush truck at a cost not to exceed \$1000.00, chargeable to the 2012 General Operating appropriation.*

Resolution Ayes: Laughlin, Lewis, Kabis, Cummings, Davis. Nays: None. Absent: None.

Commissioners Kabis and Davis will work on creating a fire district web site or web page to comply with the statutes.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on July 12, 2012, rescheduled from the July 5, 2012 previously noticed meeting.

Motion made by Kabis.

2nd by Laughlin.

Motion passed without objection.