

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

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

The scheduled meeting of the Board was called to order by Commissioner Laughlin at 7:45 pm. 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) was provided.

ROLL CALL

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

A Motion was made to appoint Devin Davis as Acting Secretary for the meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the October 4, 2012 meeting as presented.

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

BID AWARDS

Hose: Of the two bids received for the hose, the lowest bidder offered prices for Jafline hose, an acceptable alternative and substantially equivalent to the type hose specified.

A Motion passed to award the bid for hose to Continental Fire & Safety, Inc. in the quantities specified by the chief.

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

RESOLUTION 2012-41 – Awarding Contract for Hose Purchase.

In accord with NJ Local Public Contracts Law, awarding a contract to Continental Fire & Safety, Inc., of Trenton, NJ., for the purchase of Jafline fire hose, pursuant to the board's bid specifications and the vendor's bid proposal, in the following quantities:

<i>Two (2) ea. 50' length 1 ¾"</i>	<i>\$109.00 ea.</i>	<i>\$ 218.00</i>
<i>Two (2) ea. 50' length 2"</i>	<i>\$224.00 ea.</i>	<i>\$ 448.00</i>
<i>Twelve (12) ea. 50' length 2 ½"</i>	<i>\$178.00 ea.</i>	<i>\$2136.00</i>
<i>Ten (10) ea. 50' length 3"</i>	<i>\$ 235.00 ea.</i>	<i>\$2350.00</i>

The treasurer certified there were sufficient unencumbered funds to award this contract. The total cost shall not exceed \$5152.00 and shall be chargeable to the 2012 Supplies appropriation.

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

Pumper: The truck committee reviewed the technical bid proposals and Mr. Keller presented an overview of the committee's findings and its recommendation. Neither bid received is without exceptions, however some directly relate to the functionality of the vehicle for the purposes intended. The lower bidder, Spartan, proposed a CAFS system with a PTO driven compressor

and a raised floor, both of which design elements the committee researched ahead of time and found undesirable, and both of which are specifically addressed in the RFP. The specs provide for a hose bed capable of carrying at least 2000' of hose, the minimum necessary to reach water supplies in areas served by storage tanks. Spartan's design can only accommodate 1400' of hose. This definitely creates a fireground issue. Spartan does not offer the electronic steps or electronic valves set forth in the specs and does not provide details of a variety of design elements when specifically asked to do so in the specs. Further, in places Spartan's proposal references meeting or exceeding the City of Chicago's requirements without specifying what those requirements are or whether they adequately address this board's requirements. There are inconsistencies in Spartan's proposal; one example relates to the size and capacity of the rear axle, specified differently in two places in the company's proposal. Spartan does not provide a bid for any of the Options for which the board sought prices. Spartan's prepayment discount is considerably less than Emergency One's – 1.6% vs. 3%. Spartan's proposal leaves many things open for determination at a pre-build conference, which occurs only after an award of contract, resulting in the question of whether Spartan would, or could produce a truck compliant with the Board's specifications. The potential for problems after contract is a concern. Emergency One's proposal meets the board's specifications insofar as the CAFS system and hose carrying capability, provides for electronic steps and valves and contains detailed descriptions of the size and shape of most design elements, minimizing potential conflicts and legal problems. The committee recommends the board award the contract for the Emergency One pumper. After discussion of, among other things, the fire district's need for the apparatus and the reasonable requirements of the fire company for the performance of the vehicle, financial matters concerning the financial responsibility of the bidders, bonding and downpayment alternatives, as well as the extent design differences and exceptions to the specifications impact the intended performance and functionality of the vehicle,

A Motion was made to thank both vendors for submitting bids and to accept the bid proposal submitted by Emergency One for a pumper truck and to award a contract to the company, taking advantage of its downpayment program and reserving until the time of the pre-build the right to award Options as per the vendor's proposal.

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

RESOLUTION 2012-42- Awarding Contract for Pumper Apparatus.

In accord with the Local Public Contracts Law and pursuant to the board's specifications and the vendor's bid proposal, on the recommendation of the truck committee and taking into account the elements of both bid proposals addressed in the discussion outlined above, awarding a contract for the manufacture and delivery of a custom pumper fire apparatus to Emergency One, Inc. of Ocala, Florida, in the amount of \$708,852.00, plus the cost of Options as may be included at the time of the apparatus pre-build conference, and including the vendor's pre-payment Option #1 at 3% interest. The total cost of the purchase shall not exceed \$720,000.00, and shall be charged against the capital purchase account previously approved by the voters for the purchase. The Chief Financial Officer certifies there are sufficient unencumbered funds in the capital account designated for this purchase.

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

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 chief requested payment to Breathe Safe for the MSA visual inspection/function test and the flow testing be held until he can verify the amounts charged and receives the OSHA certifications from the vendor.

The balance of encumbered funds for firefighter physicals (\$2021.00 – Gen. Operating), fire prevention materials (\$630.50 – Training) and the iPad (\$80.05 – Supplies) will be released back to the respective budget accounts.

A motion was passed to accept the Treasurer's Report, to approve payment of the bill, to transfer money to the checking account, and to release the foregoing enumerated encumbered amounts back to their respective budget accounts.

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

RESOLUTION 2012-43 Payment of Bills. *Approval to pay the bills as presented in the amount of \$27,506.48, all payable from 2012 funds, and to transfer 40,192.75 from the TD Bank equity account to the TD Bank checking account for the purpose of paying bills. Payment of invoices to Breathe Safe in the amounts of \$730.00 and \$499.40 will be held until the chief verifies the amounts and the OSHA certifications are received. The chief will notify Ms. Stys.*

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

CHIEF'S REPORT

The fire company responded to 56 calls during October, 2012. Among these were three notable situations: A dangerous residential CO condition, the hurricane, and a townhouse fire in Station 45's district. Early on during the hurricane the UHF trunking system went down so the local Montgomery Twp. tactical system (VHF) was the only functioning means of communication. Most phone lines were nonfunctional. Most calls came after the storm and were largely related to the loss of heat/power and storm damage.

Somerset County Dispatch is continuing to experience problems with the VHF system. They are blaming it on bad weather affecting the towers. Today, in a possible structure fire situation, neither Station 46 nor Rocky Hill received the dispatch. The chief has provided them with various alternatives to circumvent the problems, including an auxiliary procedure whereby they telephonically dial the chief when the fire company is dispatched, but the county seems unwilling to make this or any other accommodation. It is a problem that needs to be fixed at the county level.

The fire prevention open house went well, despite inclement weather.

The thermal imaging camera that failed was repaired. A crack in the battery box allowed corrosion of the internal board. 4 TIC's need new batteries which were ordered today.

If the EMS does not express any needs to the board next month, in keeping with the spirit of the appropriation, the chief asked if the funds designated for them could be repurposed to upgrade and restock the First Aid Kits the fire company has.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Davis and President Keller are exploring phone system alternatives and will present a proposal with pricing at a future meeting.

The web site is up and accessible through the board's address- www.bofc46.com.

NEW BUSINESS

On behalf of the board, Commissioner Davis recognized the fire company's preparedness and dedication during the recent superstorm and expressed his thanks to the chief for his efforts in coordinating an outstanding emergency response program.

2013 BUDGET – The board proposes to purchase up to three (3) Opticom intersection control devices through a capital outlay in the 2013 budget. A special vote of the district taxpayers is in order to authorize the inclusion in the budget. The budget will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

A Motion was passed to hold a special vote of taxpayers of the district at the next meeting to authorize including the Opticom purchases in the 2013 budget.

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

RESOLUTION 2012-44 – Authorizing Special Vote of Taxpayers.

Authorizing a meeting of the board, together with a special vote of taxpayers of the district, to be held on December 6, 2012, at 7:30 pm at the Montgomery Township Volunteer Fire Company No. 2 firehouse at 529 route 518 in Blawenburg, NJ, at which meeting the voters will be asked to approve the purchase and installation of up to three (3) Opticom intersection control devices at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.00, and to raise money for same in the Capital Outlay section of the district's 2013 budget. Voters may cast their votes between the hours of 7:30 pm and 9:00 pm by ballot provided at the meeting. Attorney Griswold is authorized to provide notice in accord with the statutes.

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m. The next meeting, including the special vote of taxpayers, will be held on December 6, 2012.

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