

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING VIA ZOOM
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on July 23, 2020 remotely via Zoom at 7:00 PM.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER / STATEMENT OF NOTICE

Vice-Chairman Burd called the meeting to order and stated that the notice of the meeting had been posted on the Hopewell Township Municipal Bulletin Board and forwarded to the Hopewell Valley News and Times of Trenton, and had been posted on the Hopewell Township Fire District Web-Site in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chairman Burd.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Lynch - Absent
Vice-Chairman Burd - Present
Secretary Tomaro - Present
Treasurer Malkiewicz - Present
Commissioner Tackacs - Present

MINUTES SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

All minutes were tabled until all commissioners that were in office at the time of those meetings can be present.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA)

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chairman Burd reported that the next meeting may be virtual pending the status of the municipal building as open or closed.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Malkiewicz read the summary of the Bills and Claims dated July 23, 2020 and was seconded by Commissioner Tackacs. Treasurer Malkiewicz reported on the notable bills. A roll call vote was held and the following amounts were authorized:

Bill List:		\$12,677.88
Payroll Ending	July 18, 2020	\$52,602.83
Total Disbursements:		\$65,280.71

WORK SESSION / SUB COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

Vice Chairman Burd explained the purpose of having sub committees and assigning certain commissioners to each topic to act as the centralized communicator.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

The Board discussed the purpose of this sub-committee and discussed reaching out to the Valley Boards to ask them to appoint a commissioner that this committee can work with. Commissioner Tomaro expressed interest in joining this committee. Vice-Chairman Burd also joined.

UFCRS SPRINKLER TANK

Treasurer Malkiewicz asked Attorney Kevin Hart if there was a conflict of interest if he joined this sub-committee and Attorney Hart indicated that there wasn't. Treasurer Malkiewicz joined the committee.

The Board discussed the ongoing sprinkler tank issue. Union Fire Company and Rescue Squad President Pete Swanson summarized the history of the issue with the sprinkler tank, the different options to replace the underground tank, and the problems with each option. President Swanson reported that the most viable option is an above ground dual tank attached to the rear of the firehouse in an enclosed building. Sean Walsh, a representative from Van Cleef Engineering, reported on the benefits of this plan. The Board discussed the cost of this plan, which Mr. Walsh estimates at \$625,000. The underground tank would be filled in and they would confirm that the ground is stable. Other representatives from Van Cleef Engineering, President Swanson, and the Board discussed logistics of the new system. Vice-Chairman Burd asked Van Cleef Engineering to take over the management of the project from Chief Martin. Vice-Chairman Burd asked Attorney Hart to discuss the available funds for the project. Attorney Hart referred that question to Chief Martin, who was not present at the meeting. Representatives from Van Cleef Engineering estimated that the tanks should arrive fully erected and last for about thirty years, and the replacement cost in thirty years would be much less. Commissioner Tackacs asked if any work was required inside the building. The Board and President Swanson discussed if the fire company or the Board would be paying for inside repairs. Vice-Chairman Burd asked Van Cleef Engineering to confirm that the prices they provided are still current. Representatives from Van Cleef Engineering recommended to set up a schedule for the project to determine when prices would need to be updated. The Board will follow up with Chairman Lynch and Chief Martin. The Board will revisit the next meeting.

SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT – HOPEWELL BOROUGH

Secretary Tomaro joined the committee. The Board volunteered Chairman Lynch to assist.

SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT – PENNINGTON BOROUGH

The Board discussed having the same commissioners work on both shared services agreements. The Board decided to table the shared services agreements as they don't expire until the end of the year. Attorney Hart also offered to assist. Vice-Chairman Burd asked LT Moore to send the agreements to the commissioners to review.

VEHICLE REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE

Vice-Chairman Burd summarized the Board's efforts to create a Valley-wide vehicle replacement plan. The Board discussed the current process of incurring debt service and, with Kevin Hart, discussed the limit of funds available for vehicle replacement. Vice-Chairman Burd asked LT Moore to follow up with Chief Martin. Treasurer Malkiewicz and Vice-Chairman Burd offered to join this sub-committee.

EMS BILLING AND AMBULANCE STATE LICENSING

Vice-Chairman Burd summarized the issues regarding EMS Billing and ambulance state licensing. Captain Muccioli reported that Pennington First Aid Squad had finally received state licensing from New Jersey after much effort. Captain Muccioli reported on the current state of membership and supplies at Pennington First Aid Squad, and offered to assist Hopewell Borough in their effort to receive state licensing. Vice-Chairman Burd offered to join and stated that Chairman Lynch would also be willing to join.

UPCOMING DEVELOPMENT IN HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP

The Board discussed what would be required of the commissioners on this sub-committee. Commissioner Tackacs and the Board discussed that Fire Official Fosina may have insight on upcoming developments. Treasurer Malkiewicz and Commissioner Tackacs offered to join this committee.

LIEUTENANT/FIRE OFFICIAL EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT NEGOTIATION

Vice-Chairman Burd offered to join this sub-committee. The Board established that the officers do not have a union. Secretary Tomaro offered to join the sub-committee.

The assigned commissioners may change when Chairman Lynch is present at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT (NON AGENDA)

Union Fire Company & Rescue Squad Chief Kurt Pedersen reported on the repairs with new Tanker 53, which is back at the firehouse and in service. The new tanker will be called Tanker 53 and the old tanker will be called Tanker 53-1. The Board discussed where the tankers will be stored. Chief Pedersen reported on the repairs of punch list items from the initial delivery. Chief Pedersen reported on items purchased for Gator 53 and the registration and licensure of Gator 53. Chief Pedersen reported on a visit by Secretary Tomaro to the firehouse. Chief Pedersen invited any Board member to visit the firehouse if they wished and thanked the Board for their work on the Tanker project.

Lt Moore reported to the Board that petitions for the available Board seats were due to Mercer County by the following Monday. Lt Moore reported that the audit was complete and asked the Board if anyone wanted to attend the exit conference. Lt Moore will ask Purchasing Agent Ocicki to email the Board regarding the exit conference, and Treasurer Malkiewicz reported that he would attend.

Vice Chairman Burd asked Chief Pedersen for an update on the boat. The boat that was purchased recently was damaged during training. The insurance company had been contacted and will send an appraiser. The boat may need to be returned to the manufacturer to determine the repair options. Chief Pedersen reported the events that resulted in the damage, that individuals involved had filled out an incident report, and that there were no injuries during the incident. The Board asked what the insurance deductible was and Lt Moore said he would find out.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

None needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Malkiewicz motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Tackacs at 8:01 PM The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah Ocicki
Purchasing Agent