

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUILDING**

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2012

CALL MEETING TO ORDER/STATEMENT OF PROPER NOTICE - Chairman Chipowsky called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. stating that the notice of the meeting had been posted on the municipal bulletin board and forwarded to the Hopewell Valley News and The Trenton Times, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG - Chairman Chipowsky led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL BY CHAIRMAN - Those answering the roll call of Chairman Chipowsky:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Chipowsky, Treasurer Cseremsak, Secretary Orlandi

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice-Chairman Lenarski, Commissioner Kintzel

OTHERS PRESENT: President Swanson (53/153), Captain Schmitt (151), Trustee Pollock (51), Specialist Wilson (50/159), Chief Martin (50/159), Kevin Hart (Attorney for the Board arrived 7:14 p.m.), Ben Grove (Breathe Safe Co.), Trish Grove (Breathe Safe Co.)

MINUTES SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

None

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA)

None

RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

NOMINATIONS FOR 2012 BOARD OFFICERS

Chairman Chipowsky called for the nominations for the 2012 Board of Fire Commissioners officers.

CHAIRMAN

Treasurer Cseremsak nominated Michael Chipowsky for Chairman, and was seconded by Secretary Orlandi. No further nominations were made for Chairman.

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Treasurer Cseremsak nominated Joseph Lenarski for Vice-Chairman, and was seconded by Secretary Orlandi. No further nominations were made for Vice-Chairman.

TREASURER

Secretary Orlandi nominated Michael Cseremsak for Treasurer, and was seconded by Chairman Chipowsky. No further nominations were made for Treasurer.

SECRETARY

Treasurer Cseremsak nominated Cindy Orlandi for Secretary, and was seconded by Chairman Chipowsky. No further nominations were made for Secretary.

ELECTION OF 2012 BOARD OFFICERS

Chairman:	Michael Chipowsky
Vice-Chairman:	Joseph Lenarski
Treasurer:	Michael Cseremsak
Secretary:	Cindy Orlandi

CANDIDATES UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2012-16

RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF FIRE DISTRICT NO.1 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, MAKING APPLICATION TO THE LOCAL FINANCE BOARD PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:5A-6

Copy of resolution and record of vote is attached

Motioned by Secretary Orlandi, seconded by Treasurer Cseremsak to adopt the resolution as read.

DISCUSSION:

None

MOTION CARRIED

ABSENT: Vice-Chairman Lenarski, Commissioner Kintzel

ABSTAIN: None

Chairman Chipowsky asked Chief Martin to report on the status of the purchase of the replacement self contained breathing apparatus units (SCBA's). Chief Martin explained that a vendor looking to sell the SCBA's to the Fire District was present at the meeting. Chairman Chipowsky reported that it was his intention with the consent of the Board to go to a public bid for the purchase of the SCBA's. Chief Martin explained that the Board is investigating the possibility of forming a Cooperative Purchasing Program (CO-OP) where the Township Fire District would be the lead agency to present a bid that would request the bidders to extend the pricing to members of the (CO-OP). The (CO-OP) could be joined by the Hopewell Borough Board and the Pennington Borough Board to permit the purchase of the same type of SCBA's throughout Hopewell Valley. Chief Martin reported to the Board that he had been contacted by Commissioner Kintzel who was out of the area on business and it was Commissioner Kintzel's opinion that the Board proceed with the purchase of the SCBA's via the New Jersey State Contract System to ensure the SCBA's purchased where the type the Chief of the Union Fire Company and Rescue Squad was looking for. Chairman Chipowsky felt that the only option to save money was to proceed with a public bid. Chairman Chipowsky explained that the savings that were expected via a trade in deal could no longer be utilized due to surplus laws. Secretary Orlandi and Treasurer Cseremsak agreed that a public bid appeared to be the most reasonable option.

Trustee Matthew Pollock from the Pennington Fire Company asked if the Township Board would own the SCBA's. Chief Martin explained that the Borough Boards would join the CO-OP but the decision to purchase the SCBA's would be each members of the CO-OP's individual decision. Additionally, Chief Martin advised that ownership would be by each individual governmental entity and each governmental entity would be responsible for the care and maintenance of the SCBA's they purchased.

A member of the public Mr. Ben Grove representing Breathe Safe a Mine Safety Appliances SCBA dealer reported to the Board some details of the MSA SCBA. Chairman Chipowsky advised Mr. Grove that he should include any details on the MSA SCBA units in a bid submission.

Attorney Kevin Hart arrived and explained how through his firms process of due diligence he did not feel comfortable writing an opinion letter that recommend a State Contract purchase with a direct trade-in to the vendor whom the Board was entering into a purchasing agreement with via the State Contract. Mr. Hart explained the specifics of the surplus of equipment. Mr. Hart advised that he had also discussed the matter with the Board's Bond Counsel and with the Attorney for the Pennington Borough Fire District and the Hopewell Borough Fire District. Mr. Hart reported that he had also reviewed and explained the CO-OP and the benefits the CO-OP present in terms of finding the most competitive pricing. Chief Martin clarified for Mr. Hart and the Board the amount of money authorized by the voters for the SCBA's. Chief Martin reported that the Valley Fire Chiefs and the members of the SCBA Committee would like to purchase either the Scott SCBA's or the MSA SCBA's. Attorney Hart further explained the process of

completive bidding. Attorney Hart thanked Chief Martin for bringing to his attention a concern over the surplus of the old SCBA units.

Chairman Chipowsky advised that he would like to present a resolution at that time authorizing the Board to proceed with a bid for the purchase of the SCBA's and authorizing the creation of the CO-OP.

RESOLUTION 2012-17

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 TO ESTABLISH A COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM AND TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER CONTRACTING UNITS

Copy of resolution and record of vote is attached

Motioned by Secretary Orlandi, seconded by Treasurer Cseremsak to adopt the resolution as read.

DISCUSSION:

None

MOTION CARRIED

ABSENT: Vice-Chairman Lenarski, Commissioner Kintzel

ABSTAIN: None

Chairman Chipowsky asked Attorney Hart if the Board should pass a resolution or hold a roll call vote indicating the Board's decision to proceed with a bid rather than a state contract purchase. Attorney Hart did not feel a resolution or roll call vote was necessary. Attorney Hart explained that he has advised the Bond Attorney to proceed with the application process to obtain the bond funding.

TREASURER'S REPORT

BILLS & CLAIMS

Summary read by Treasurer Cseremsak

BILLS & CLAIMS

Authorized cash disbursements requiring approval for payment of bills in the following amounts:

Bill List:		\$24,035.20
Payroll Ending:	February 25, 2012	\$29,741.71
DCRP Ending:	February 25, 2012	\$7.84
Total Disbursements:		\$53,784.75

Motioned by Secretary Orlandi and seconded by Chairman Chipowsky .

DISCUSSION:

Chief Martin advised the bill list included notable payments of vehicle repairs, first quarterly vehicle inspections, mail-in ballot clerk, IT consulting, and the Fire House Software annual maintenance agreement.

MOTION CARRIED

ABSENT: Vice-Chairman Lenarski, Commissioner Kintzel

ABSTAIN: None

PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA)

Captain Schmitt presented the Board with the Pennington First Aid Squad’s most current call statics. Captain Schmitt reported that the Pennington First Aid Squad has completed it’s LOSAP listing and presented the listing to the Board. Captain Schmitt advised that he would be sending the LOSAP listing electronically to Commissioner Kintzel.

Trustee Matthew Pollock from the Pennington Fire Company reported that a canal bridge was being replaced and wanted to advise the Board to look into replacing the canal bridges within Hopewell Township. Trustee Pollock asked the Board if the results of the bid where not favorable could the Board proceed with the State Contract. Chief Martin reported that the Board could utilize the State Contract and provided the other reasons that a bid could be rejected.

Chief Martin reported on the status of the Fire District Financial Audit. Chief Martin advised that the agenda for the meeting had been shortened to permit a Board Member to leave for work.

Chairman Chipowsky asked Chief Martin, Attorney Hart, and the Board if an Executive Session was needed. A decision not to hold an Executive Session was made.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:37 p.m. a motion by Treasurer Cseremsak and seconded by Secretary Orlandi to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

ABSENT: Vice-Chairman Lenarski, Commissioner Kintzel

ABSTAIN: None

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MM' or 'MGM' in a stylized, cursive font.

Matthew Martin
Chief of Emergency Services