

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
& JOINT MEETING WITH
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
PENNINGTON BOROUGH FIRE DISTRICT
HOPEWELL BOROUGH FIRE DISTRICT**

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUILDING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2013

CALL MEETING TO ORDER/STATEMENT OF PROPER NOTICE - Chairman Chipowsky called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM 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. Chairman Chipowsky also indicated that notice of the change in time of the meeting was 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, Vice-Chairman Lenarski, Secretary Kintzel

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Treasurer Cseremsak, Commissioner Lynch

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Deputy Chief Soganic (153), Battalion Chief Bailey (53), Captain Schmitt (151), Chief Varrasse (152), Chief Deforte (51), Chief Martin (50/159)

PROFESSIONALS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2013-15 establishing the list of part-time employees was read by Secretary Kintzel but due to Secretary Kintzel's abstention the resolution did not have enough votes to pass and was held for a future meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

BILLS & CLAIMS

Summary read by Vice-Chairman Lenarski

BILLS & CLAIMS

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

Bill List:		\$9,866.83
Payroll Ending:	February 23, 2013	\$28,238.98
Total Disbursements:		\$38,105.81

Motioned by Vice-Chairman Lenarski, seconded by Secretary Kintzel to adopt the bills and claims as read.

DISCUSSION:

Chief Martin reported on notable payments made as part of the bill list including the repair to the doors damaged on engine 50 and the annual dues for the New Jersey Fire Districts Association.

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

EMS Billing:
No report

Emergency Services Specialist Hiring Process: Chief Martin reported on the status of the hiring process.

2013 Budget/Revenue:
No report

2013 Election: Chief Martin reported on the status of the 2013 election.

UFCRS Ambulance Replacement: Chief Martin reported on the status of the bid specifications for the replacement ambulance.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Chief Martin reported on a fire code issue at the Mercer County Correctional Facility. Engine 50 has returned from the door repair. A tour occurred of the Sensors Unlimited Company in West Windsor Township to understand the operations of the company in anticipation of their

relocation to Hopewell Township. The tour was attended by Chief Martin, and officers from Station 51 and Station 52. Chief Martin reported on fire code and pre-planning work that is underway with a company that has taken over the old 84 Lumber site. Ambulance 159-1 was sold for \$4,120.00 on GovDeals.com. Chief Martin reminded the Board that they will re-organize at the next meeting. Chief Martin reported that he had scheduled a meeting with Ewing Township at the request of the Board to discuss emergency medical services responding into Ewing Township. Chief Martin reported on the status of the teli-squirt radiator repair. Chief Martin reported that he had emailed the proposed fire code fees and discussed the fees with the Board. Chief Martin discussed the water study and the possibility of moving forward with the ordinances discussed in the document for water supply. Ambulance 153-2 is out of service due to a possible computer problem. A rusting condition has been discovered on Engine 53. The Board discussed the rusting condition with Chief Martin and Battalion Chief Bailey.

Battalion Chief Bailey advised that Chief Martin had addressed the matters of discussion for the Union Fire Company and Rescue Squad.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA & NON-AGENDA)

Chairman Chipowsky requested public comment on agenda or non agenda items. Captain Schmitt of the Pennington First Aid Squad provided the Board with his most recent calls for service statistics. Captain Schmitt thanked the Board for setting up the meeting with Ewing Township. The Board, Captain Schmitt, and Deputy Chief Soganic discussed emergency medical services calls for service in Ewing Township. Also discussed were emergency medical services responses to the Mercer County Correctional Center.

At 6:40 PM Chairman Chipowsky asked that the meeting be suspended until all members are in place for the Joint Board Meeting.

Chairman Chipowsky re-opened the meeting at 7:04 PM. Present from the Hopewell Township Board of Fire Commissioners were Chairman Chipowsky, Secretary Kintzel, and Vice-Chairman Lenarski. Present from the Pennington Borough Board of Fire Commissioners were Chairman Blackwell, Commissioner Meytrott, Commissioner Tipperman, and Commissioner Naylor. Present from the Hopewell Borough Board of Fire Commissioners were Chairman Morehouse, and Commissioner Myers.

Chairman Chipowsky, Chairman Blackwell, and Chairman Morehouse discussed if a roll call should be held. Chairman Morehouse indicated he did not have a quorum. The Pennington Borough Fire District held a roll call with Commissioners Blackwell, Meytrott, Tipperman, and Naylor answering the roll call. Chairman Chipowsky thanked everyone for attending the meeting and opened the floor to discussion. Chairman Blackwell introduced the new Pennington Borough Fire Commissioner Bill Naylor and Chairman Morehouse introduced himself and Hopewell Borough Fire Commissioner Mel Myers.

The Boards entered into a discussion on how the 3 Boards could work regionally to determine solutions to stop the Township Boards need to balance its budget using surplus funds. The Boards discussed the vital importance of the volunteers that serve the community and that the

volunteers are the most valuable resource available to the community. The Boards discussed the support needed for the volunteers and a concentration on making the volunteers' jobs easier and pleasurable. The Boards discussed the burden on the volunteers with Chief Deforte of the Pennington Fire Company and Captain Schmitt of the Pennington First Aid Squad. The Boards held a discussion on the burden on the volunteers. The Boards entered into an extensive discussion on the budgets of the 3 fire districts and the service provided by the 3 fire districts. The discussion included the impact of the budget cap laws and approaching the voters to increase the tax rate to reduce the need to balance the budget with surplus funds. The Boards continued the extensive discussion on the budget and the possibility of increasing the fire tax via a budget cap referendum. The extensive discussion included emergency medical services billing and other revenue services. The Boards discussed emergency medical services billing and fire service billing with Deputy Chief Soganic, Captain Schmitt, and Battalion Chief Bailey. The Boards continued the extensive discussion on the budgets, services provided, contracts, volunteers, junior firefighters, LOSAP, and the possibility of a budget cap referendum. The conversation included Chief Deforte, Captain Schmitt, Deputy Chief Soganic, and Battalion Chief Bailey. The Boards discussed responses to fire alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, cellar pumps, and sump pump alarms with Chief Deforte, Chief Martin, and Battalion Chief Bailey. The discussion included the career services responses to carbon monoxide alarms and ways to assist the volunteers through recruitment and retention. Chairman Chipowsky asked the Fire Chiefs to discuss responses to carbon monoxide alarms and to report back to the Boards. The Boards and Chief Deforte discussed responses to electrical wires calls during and after storms. The Boards asked the Chiefs to discuss the responses and how they impact the volunteers. The Boards continued the discussion on the workload placed on the volunteers by false alarms. Chairman Chipowsky asked the Fire Chiefs to discuss and return possible solutions for the false alarm responses and recruitment/retention. The Board discussed junior firefighters and how to comply with the rules and regulations that apply to junior firefighters. The Boards discussed volunteer recruitment/retention and duty crews with Captain Schmitt, Chief Deforte, Battalion Chief Bailey, Deputy Chief Soganic, and Chief Varrasse. Chairman Chipowsky requested another joint meeting in May 2013. The Boards discussed the budget process. The Boards discussed the replacement of ladder tower 51 with Chief Deforte. The Boards discussed the development of a strategy to address the possible cap waiver referendum. The Boards discussed reviewing the long range capital plan at the May meeting. The Boards discussed capital equipment, the ISO rating, and the water study.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lenarski and seconded by Secretary Kintzel to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew Martin
Chief of Emergency Services