

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on August 10, 2023 in person and via Zoom at 7:00 PM.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER / STATEMENT OF NOTICE

Chairperson 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 Chairperson Burd.

ROLL CALL

Chairperson Burd-	Present
Vice-Chairperson Novak-	Present
Secretary Jones-	Present
Treasurer Tomaro-	Absent
Commissioner Rodriguez-	Present

MINUTES SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

Regular Session Meeting Minutes for 7/13/2023 attended Chairperson Burd, Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Rodriguez, Jr. were submitted and approved. Commissioner Rodriguez, Jr. made the motion and Commissioner Jones seconded.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA): None

TREASURER’S REPORT

BILLS & CLAIMS

August 10, 2023

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

Bill List		\$45,620.59
Bill List _2		\$82.074
Pay Date	August 3, 2023	\$62,209.26
Total Disbursements:		\$107,912.59

Commissioner Novak mentioned the notable bills and second disbursement due to a check reprint.

RECORD OF BOARD VOTE ON PASSAGE

Commissioner	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Tomaro						X
Jones			X			
Rodriguez		X	X			
Novak	X		X			
Burd			X			

STATION REPORTS:

- A. Union Fire Company & Rescue Squad: Report submitted. Chief Pedersen reported the Telesquirt is Out of Service and the Tanker has to go out for service due to check engine light. Chief Pedersen thanked the Commissioners for all the swift water training received, it proved invaluable during the flash flooding in Washington Crossing Pennsylvania. All the volunteers did an amazing job during a difficult situation. He also mentioned the unification of swift water training throughout the valley and the future benefit of it.
- B. Hopewell Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Unit: Report submitted. Chief Galatro reported the brush is back in service. At recent Commissioners meeting 52 is looking to purchase a boat and trailer to assist in valley-wide water rescues.
- C. Pennington Fire Company: no report
- D. Hopewell Valley Emergency Services Unit: Report submitted. Interviews will be conducted for the Deputy Chief’s position in September as well as the resolution to hold a special election. Lt. Bailey will begin the testing process as the current list is expiring. He is also meeting with the chiefs to discuss the water task force. We are approaching the end of the fiscal year and will be starting the audit for 2023 and will begin budget hearings in September for fiscal year 2024. Discussed Pensions and Benefits invoice and Hopewell LOSAP.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS | WORK SESSION | SUB COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

- A. Volunteer Recruitment: Information was sent to the Valley Chiefs to meet regarding recruitment and retention.
- B. EMS Billing & Department of Health Licensing: working with Northfield Bank on opening account needed.
- C. EMS – Hopewell Valley: no report
- D. Development in Hopewell Valley: no report
- E. Fire Hydrants: Discussion was held regarding the Township taking over Brandon Farms roads and question was raised if the hydrants would then be billed to the Fire District. Will have a work session to discuss next steps of how to handle.
- F. Shared Services Agreements: Hopewell Borough meeting on August 16. Pennington Borough budget item for radios will be deducted from 3rd payment.
- G. Future Tax Referendum: no report
- H. American Recovery Act Funds | Funding from Hopewell Township: no report

- I. TS-53 Replacement | Vehicle Replacement: Chief Pedersen is working on an updated price from vendor then will need to be sent to the Bond Council. The Board will need to pass a resolution in September Meeting. Discussed steps for Emergency Appropriation for the purchase of the replacement truck in the interim.
- J. Tanker 53-1: Resolution under new business
- K. Fire/EMS Study: Letter was sent to chiefs, working on the technical specifications for the study. Would like to send to the Township Committee for their first meeting in October to review.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 2023-54

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO.1 TO SELL TANKER 53-1 TO THE NEW JERSEY FIRE MUSEUM

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Township Fire District owns a vintage and historically significant 1992 Peterbilt Tanker commonly known as Tanker 53-1, and;

WHEREAS, Tanker 53-1 is no longer suitable, effective, and safe to operate during fire department operations, and;

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Fire Museum has expressed interest in acquiring Tanker 53-1 for New Jersey fire service historical value, and where New Jersey Fire Museum goes and other members of the public can view, learn, and enjoy Tanker 53-1 and other historically significant New Jersey fire service apparatus, and;

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Fire Museum is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and;

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Township Fire District understands that there is no monetary value of the vehicle, and wishes to sell the vehicle to the New Jersey Fire Museum where Tanker 53-1 will be housed and located at the New Jersey Fire Museum, and;

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Township Fire District is authorized to sell assets of no value.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Hopewell Township Fire District No.1 that:

- 1. The Hopewell Township Fire District No.1 has authorized the Chairperson to sign a contract to sell Tanker 53-1 to the New Jersey Fire Museum whereby they receive and acquire Tanker 53-1 for public display purposes of historical value significant to the New Jersey fire service in the amount of one dollar (\$1.00).

RECORD OF BOARD VOTE ON PASSAGE

Commissioner	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Tomaro						X
Jones	X		X			
Rodriguez, Jr.			X			
Novak		X	X			
Burd			X			

**RESOLUTION 2023-55
RESOLUTION OF THE HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO.1, COUNTY OF
MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE HIRING
OF AN INTERNET TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT COMPANY THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE
CONTRACTING PROCESS**

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Township Fire District No.1 has a requirement of information technology consultant services for its operations, and

WHEREAS, such services are authorized under the New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law (N.J.S.A.40A:11-4.1(a)) to be procured through the competitive contracting process; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to evaluate such service offerings from vendors within the procedures as set forth in the New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law (N.J.S.A.40A:11-4.1 et. seq. and N.J.A.C. 5:34-4 et. Seq.); and

WHEREAS, the District desires to enter into a contract for the option of up to a maximum of five (5) years, that will satisfy the needs of the District; and

WHEREAS, as per statute the process will be administered by the Qualified Purchasing Agent (N.J.S.A 40A:11-4.5(d)).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Hopewell Township Fire District No.1, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, as follows:

The Qualified Purchasing Agent is hereby authorized to commence the competitive contract/procurement as allowable under the New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law for information technology consultant, allowing for a minimum of 20 days’ notice after advertisement to receive responses, per Local Publics Contract Law.

RECORD OF BOARD VOTE ON PASSAGE

Commissioner	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Tomaro						X
Jones	X		X			
Rodriguez, Jr.			X			
Novak		X	X			
Burd			X			

**RESOLUTION 2023-56
RESOLUTION OF THE HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO.1, COUNTY OF
MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRPERSON TO ENTER
INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CAPITAL HEALTH SYSTEMS INC. FOR EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Township Fire District No.1 has a requirement to have contracted emergency medical treatment and transport services; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2022-88 was passed on December 22, 2022 awarded competitive contract # 22-05 to Capital Health Systems Inc., 750 Brunswick Avenue, Trenton New Jersey 08638 consistent with New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law N.J.S.A.40A:11-4.1(a); and

WHEREAS, the District’s Counsel has reviewed and negotiated the contract with representatives of Capital Health Systems and has determined that the contract is appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the term of the agreement is for one (1) year ending on April 3, 2024; however, under the terms of the competitive contract the District has the right to extend the contract in one (1) year increments up to five (5) years; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the services has been outlined in the competitive contract and agreement as two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for the year paid out in four (4) payments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Hopewell Township Fire District No.1, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, as follows:

The Chairperson is hereby authorized to sign the agreement with Capital Health Systems Inc. for emergency medical treatment and transport services as outlined above.

RECORD OF BOARD VOTE ON PASSAGE

Commissioner	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Tomaro						X
Jones	X		X			
Rodriguez, Jr.		X	X			
Novak			X			
Burd			X			

Chairperson Burd would like to offer a shared services proposal to Ewing and Lawrence due to the large amount of mutual aid calls so far. Ewing mayor has been noticed multiple times with no response. Capital Health is owed 2 payments with the signing of the contract.

PUBLIC COMMNET (NON AGENDA):

Chief Pedersen announced the power stretcher given to Union Fire from Pennington First Aid Squad is being installed in 153-2. Discussed the high mileage on the current ambulances and forming a committee to design and price a new ambulance.

The question was raised about the timing of the dredging of the HioHila Lake, Chairperson Burd will reach out to the Township Engineer.

Currently Wargo Lake on the Stonybrook Watershed property is being rebuilt, question was raised about being an alternate water source and the possibility of putting an additional standpipe on Pennington Rocky Hill Road near the lake,

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Fire Commissioners went into closed session at 7:49 pm.

RESOLUTION 2023-57

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS the Open Public Meetings Act permits the Board of Fire Commissioners of Hopewell Township Fire District No. 1 to exclude the public from a portion of the meeting in order to discuss matters requiring confidentiality per N.J.S.A. 10:4-12; and

WHEREAS, the Board is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 in the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer as follows:

1. The Board intends to discuss certain matters which are deemed confidential pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 in Executive Session.
2. The scope of the aforesaid executive session will be limited to the following:
 - A. EMS Contracts

3. Minutes of the Executive Session will be disclosed to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

RECORD OF BOARD VOTE ON PASSAGE

Commissioner	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Tomaro						X
Jones	X		X			
Rodriguez, Jr.			X			
Novak		X	X			
Burd			X			

ADJOURNMENT

The Board of Fire Commissioners returned to open session at 8:00 pm after checking the vestibule and virtual waiting room for meeting attendees. Commissioner Novak motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, Jr. at 8:01 pm. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Randi Malkiewicz
Admin Clerk

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08 / 15 / 2023
12:45:43 UTC

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IP: 173.61.41.5



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08 / 23 / 2023
12:13:05 UTC

Viewed by Randi Malkiewicz (rmalkiewicz@hopewelltpfire.org)
IP: 173.61.155.12



SIGNED

08 / 23 / 2023
12:13:16 UTC

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The document has been completed.