

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FIRE DISTRICT NO 1
FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP, NJ

Regular Meeting

May 17, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 7:30pm by Vice -Chairman Thomas Caruso.

Notice was read, the flag salute was lead by the Chief and roll call was taken; Mr. Story, Mr. Keim, C. Buscaglia, and Mr. Caruso were all present. R. Buscaglia was absent. Also in attendance was Joseph Youssef, Chief Luongo, Donna Pujat and other members of the Fire Company.

A motion was made by C. Buscaglia and seconded by Mr. Story to approve the minutes of April 11, 2011 meeting as prepared.

A motion was made by Mr. Story and seconded by C. Buscaglia to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of April 19, 2011

A motion was made by Mr. Story and seconded by Mr. Keim to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of April 26, 2011

Roll call votes were taken on all three motions, and approved by affirmative votes.

Correspondence: A letter was received from Nadine Gazic, asking for use of the firehouse for a car wash for her daughters dance group at FAPA. Discussion followed, and it was noted that due to safety problems in the past, the Board had decided not to allow these events at the firehouse any longer. Mr. Caruso stated that he does not know what the feeling of the rest of the Board are, but he feels the Board needs to honor the decision previously made. All Board members present agreed with Mr. Caruso and will not allow these events.

Treasurers Report: Mr. C. Buscaglia read the report into record. A motion was made by Mr. Mr. Story and seconded by Mr. Keim, to approve the report as presented. All present, voted in the affirmative to approve.

A motion was made by Mr. C. Buscaglia and seconded by Mr. Story to pay the bills in the total of \$22,467.05 and to transfer \$22,000 from Money Market into checking. A roll call vote was taken, all votes in the affirmative.

Insurance: Progress

Building: Mr. Keim reported that the new boiler is scheduled to be installed on May 19th. C. Buscaglia took care of the carpet for the "TV" room, and he will look into having the cracks repaired and the walls painted in the TV room.

Discussion was held regarding new furniture. After some discussion, it was decided that the Chief will look into furniture, get some info together and pass it on to the Board.

It was noted that there is a pool table at Georgia Road that needs to go. Discussion followed and it was decided to give it away if anyone wanted it. Also, there is an inflatable water slide which was donated to the Fire Company. Discussion followed on what to do with it, and it was decided to bring it up to the Fire Company since the donation was to the Fire Company. Everyone was reminded that the Benefit Poker Run was being held on Saturday, May 20th. District Headquarters is one stop, and will be open for the run from 9:30am through 12:30pm.

Ducket & Laird will be contacted to service the A/c.

It was noted that each board member will take weekly turns being "on call" for alarms for the Fire District buildings. Discussion followed.

Mr. Caruso stated that the Fire Company is taking a lot of time and effort, holding extra drills for training, excessive calls, etc, so he would like to make a motion that the Board pick up the bill for food (breakfast & lunch) at the next extrication drill which will be a two day training. Discussion followed. A motion was made by C. Buscaglia and seconded by Mr. Story to purchase the food for the drill, not to exceed \$1,000 (approx \$500 per day). A roll call vote was taken, all votes in the affirmative.

Legal: Mr. Youssef reported that legislation had been introduced in Trenton requiring that every fire district have a website. Mr. Youssef further indicated that this will be signed into act very soon. Discussion followed.

Mr. Youssef read into record, a resolution that had been introduced by title on April 11, 2011 regarding Administrative Leave Policy. A motion was made by Mr. Story and seconded by Mr. Keim to approve the resolution as prepared. A roll call vote was taken, all votes in the affirmative.

Discussion was held regarding the NJ State Association of Fire Districts. It was decided that the Board would join. A motion was made by C. Buscaglia and seconded by Mr. Story to join the NJ State Association of Fire Districts in the amount of \$300 per year. A roll call vote was taken, all present voted in the affirmative.

Chiefs Report: Chief Luongo read into record the Chiefs reports from April. The Chief reported that annual physicals went well, but a fit test was not done. Discussion followed and it was decided to have the Fire Academy perform the test and it will be added in for next year.

Basic extrication training is scheduled for June 4 & 5th.

The Chiefs Dinner is scheduled for June 18th. Smithburg may not be available, and the Chief asked for permission to hold it at Georgia Road Station.

The Chief asked about the progress of 16-1-85 at P&L. Mr. Buscaglia will contact P&L.

The Chief requested an Executive Session for personnel discussion.

President's Report: President Story was working and sent word that he would try to make the Executive Session.

Old Business: Mr. Caruso stated that as the Chief noted, the physicals went well. There are only two members remaining; Russell Prochnow and Chris Lach who didn't receive physicals. Mr. Caruso noted that he hadn't received any results yet, although the random drug testing came in and all tested passed. Mr. Gasek of the fire company asked if the Board had any thoughts on blood testing. Mr. Caruso stated that it had been discussed and the Board will consider it. He added that a couple Associate members had asked about receiving the test. This will be tabled until next year prior to the annuals. It was noted that the "letter of abatement" was received from OSHA regarding the inspection.

Mr. Caruso stated that the Chief and Bob Buscaglia had been working on job description for a "houseman". Follow up meetings will be scheduled.

Asst Chief Prochnow asked about the status of the weight room. It was noted that the unit has a broken cable and that is why it's not being used. It will be checked into for repairs.

New Business: None

Audience participation: Jack Scheurer comments on the ceiling tiles, blinds and curtains in the meeting room. Some discussion followed and Mr. Buscaglia will check into verticals.

A motion was made by Mr. C. Buscaglia and seconded by Mr. Story to go into Executive Session by the request of the Chief for discussion of personnel matters. A roll call vote was taken, all votes in the affirmative.

Regular session meeting held at 8:34pm

At 8:53pm regular session meeting was resumed, being no further business, at 8:54pm a motion was made by Mr. Story and seconded by Keim to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:



Larry Story, Secretary

5/17/11

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF
FIRE DISTRICT NO.1 FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHING
A POLICY OF ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR FIREFIGHTERS
CHARGED WITH SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENSES**

WHEREAS; The position of a volunteer firefighter is one of special trust which requires that public confidence in the integrity, honesty and professionalism of volunteers remain beyond question; and

WHEREAS; It is the considered opinion of the Board of Fire Commissioners that when a member of the Fire District's volunteer fire service is arrested and charged with a serious criminal offense or a crime involving moral turpitude it is necessary desirable and in the public interest that the member be suspended from performing the duties of a volunteer firefighter until the criminal matter is resolved; and

WHEREAS; The suspension to be imposed hereunder is temporary in nature and does not presume the guilt or innocence of the accused firefighter but rather, is intended to protect the reputation and integrity of the volunteer fire service in Fire District No.1 Freehold Township pending the resolution of the charges faced by the volunteer firefighter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No.1 Freehold Township as follows:

1. Upon a member of the Freehold Township Independent Fire Company being charged with a serious crime, said member shall be automatically suspended from performing any and all duties normally required of a volunteer firefighter in Freehold Township Fire District No.1.

2. The suspension imposed hereby is without prejudice to the interests of the volunteer firefighter and said suspension shall not interfere with the firefighters seniority, benefits or status pending a favorable resolution of the charges against the firefighter.

3. It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Freehold Independent Fire Company to immediately report the filing of criminal charges against any member of the fire company to the Chief or President of the volunteer fire company who shall then report the arrest and charge to the Board of Fire Commissioners.

4. During the suspension period, the firefighter shall be prohibited from entering any property owned and/or operated by the Board of Fire Commissioners and shall be prohibited from utilizing any and all equipment owned, insured, supplied and or funded by the Board of Fire Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified true copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Chief and line officers of the Freehold Independent Fire Company and that copies be posted on the official bulletin board of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Moved by: Mr. Keim

Seconded by: Mr. C. Buscaglia

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Absent: 1

Abstain: 0

Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No.1 Freehold Township on the 20th day of April, 2011.

Reps Keim, Clerk

5/17/11

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Moved by:

Seconded by:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

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_____, Clerk