

**Board of Fire Commissioners  
Freehold Twp – Fire District No. 1  
Freehold, NJ 07728**

August 26, 2013

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 7:33pm by Vice-Chairman Robert Buscaglia. Mr. Buscaglia reported that the meeting was being opened for purpose of accepting bids for the installation of a generator. Mr. Youssouf asked if there were any bidders in the room, Mr. Joshi checked the rest of the facility, being no bidders present, the Board entered back into an Executive Session for the purpose of personnel issues.

At 8:30pm, the Robert Buscaglia, Vice Chairman called the regular meeting of the Board to order. Notice was read, the flag salute was led by Asst. Chief Spicuzza.

Roll call was taken; Larry Story, Robert Buscaglia, Shyamal Joshi, Charles Buscaglia and Thomas Caruso were all present. Also in attendance was; Joseph Youssouf, Donna Pujat, Asst. Chief Spicuzza, and President Marcondes as well as other members of the Fire Company.

A motion was made by Mr. Caruso and seconded by Mr. Story to approve the minutes of the June meeting with the following clarifications/corrections: The minutes reported that the pre-emption system at Gravel Hill Road was repaired and back in service. The location was actually reported as Smithburg Road location, but with further discussion it is reported that it is not in service as of yet.

Also, Mr. Caruso clarified payment of the bills. The minutes incorrectly stated that Mr. Caruso asked if we did pay the voucher for Mr. Purvis. The minutes are being corrected to say, he did not recall agreeing to pay the voucher for Mr. Purvis. A roll call vote was taken, all votes in the affirmative.

At this time, the meeting was turned over the Chairman Caruso.

**Correspondence:** None

Mr. Youssouf stated that there were no bids submitted for the generator installation. Being none, a motion was made by Mr. Joshi and seconded by Mr. Story to rebid the project. A roll call vote was taken, all votes in the affirmative.

**Treasurers Report:** Report was read into record by Charles Buscaglia. A motion was made by R. Buscaglia and seconded by Mr. Story to approve the report as presented. A roll call vote was taken, all votes in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Mr. C. Buscaglia and seconded by Mr. R. Buscaglia to approve the bills in the total of \$34,166.06 And to transfer \$30,000 from money market into checking for payments. A roll call was taken as follows: C. Buscaglia, R. Buscaglia and Mr. Story voted in the affirmative. Mr. Joshi and Mr. Caruso abstained.

**Insurance:** Discussion was held on the injury claim for Drew Luber. It was noted that Pete Jeffery was at the last fire company meeting for an insurance presentation regarding overages.

**Building** – It was reported that the painting at Smithburg was completed, but it was noted that next time the sheetrock will need replacing. It was also noted that the work looks great. Discussion followed. Mike Fogarty was thanked for moving the equipment during the project.

Mr. Story reported that the garage doors have been serviced.

Mr. R. Buscaglia reported that he is still working on organizing Verizon and CSS Alarms to meet and check the system. Key fobs were discussed. It was reported that 7-10 people without key fobs. Discussion was held regarding changing the access system.

Mr. C. Buscaglia reported that dead trees were removed at Georgia Road Station, and wood was available for anyone who wanted it. It was suggested that before the cold weather comes, a couple more trees should be removed that are in bad shape. A motion was made by C. Buscaglia and seconded by Mr. Joshi to hire the tree removal not to exceed \$1,000. A roll call vote was taken and all votes were in the affirmative.

**Legal** – Mr. Youssouf read into record a resolution terminating Mr. Garcia. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Mr. Story – yes

Mr. R. Buscaglia – yes

Mr. C. Buscaglia - yes

Mr. Joshi – no

Mr. Caruso – abstain

Mr. Youssouf read into record resolution placing Andrew Goonetilleke and Steven Lengyel on suspension from the fire company for six months.

Mr. Story – yes

Mr. R. Buscaglia – yes

Mr. C. Buscaglia – yes

Mr. Joshi – no

Mr. Caruso – no

**Chief's Report** – Chief's report was read into record by Asst Chief Spicuzza

Spot lights on 77 need to be replaced. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Mr. Joshi and seconded by Mr. R. Buscaglia to use 1<sup>st</sup> Priority and have the work done right away in the total cost of \$2,804.40

Discussion was held that 77 is still not starting correctly.

Drivers license info was received for all but a couple members and will be given to the board.

Chief Spicuzza reported that a resignation had been received from Mr. Lengyel.

**Presidents Report** – President Marcondes reported that the bays at Smithburg look great.

The President stated that he would like to comment on the recent dismissal and suspension. He stated that as president he was never notified of anything and he had to hear in the "bays". He added that he thought that the board should have included him in the discussion. In addition, placing a member such as Mr. Goonetilleke on suspension for six months is going to hurt the company immensely. He asked that in the future he requests better communication on the Boards part. Mr. R. Buscaglia stated that the Executive Session tonight contained information regarding accusations which were made against a commissioner. The Board felt it was not appropriate to include anyone other than Board members in the discussions.

President Marcondes stated that he will give the Board respect that they deserve, but he should receive the same respect. He again stressed what an asset Mr. Goonetilleke is to the company.

Mr. Youssouf stated that the Commissioners needed to act on a series on information received about what happened, and actions needed to be taken. He added that in a tax payers eye, the events which took place were serious and it was up to the Board to ensure they don't happen again. The President stated that he simply felt he should have been included. Mr. Youssouf stated that Johns request is very reasonable and the Board should take his request into consideration in the future. He stated that the message should be sent to the other and future members, that these actions will not be tolerated.

Mr. Caruso stated they he understood Johns position, but he felt they shared as much as they could.

Asst Chief Zuccarelli stated that things just escalated. Mr. Caruso asked Bryan to hold his comments for audience.

Mr. R. Buscaglia stated that he feels the actions discussed tonight, weakened this company.

**Old Business** – C. Buscaglia asked if Matthew Manzella had turned in all of his equipment. It was reported he had not, but it would be by the end of the week.

**New Business:** Mr. Joshi reported that he had gotten quotes to install IAM Responding into the firehouses. Those are as follows:

All Medial LLC NO QUOTE

Coredero One large screen and one small screen \$3,100, but does not include network

Netlink – who is being used currently \$9,437 and \$3,700 labor for a total of \$13,137 which includes total networking and installation.. Mr. Joshi made a motion to use Netlink in the total of \$13,137, motion was seconded by Mr. Story. A roll call vote was taken, all votes in the affirmative except Mr. C. Buscaglia who abstained.

Prices had also been received for laptops for the Board members and Secretary. Prices were \$1,339 each, \$83 for a 3 year protection plan for a total of \$9,132 which includes a government discount.

A motion was made by Mr. Joshi and seconded by R. Buscaglia to purchase the six Apple computers and protection plans. Discussion followed. Mr. C. Buscaglia reported that the computers were not budgeted but the Board does have the funds. The motion was seconded by Mr. R. Buscaglia. A roll call vote was taken. All votes in the affirmative except Mr. C. Buscaglia to voted NO.

A motion was made by Mr. Joshi and seconded by Mr. R. Buscaglia to also purchase the software at \$107 each, and the Excel/Word Licenses at \$642 A roll call vote was taken, all votes in the affirmative except Mr. C. Buscaglia who abstained.

Mr. Joshi requested attending the third and final Public Purchasing Class. He stated that this is the last of the classes and he would become a certified public purchasing agent. A motion was made by Mr. Story and seconded by Mr. R. Buscaglia to have Mr. Joshi attend and the class cost being \$917 A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Mr. Story           yes  
Mr. R. Buscaglia yes  
Mr. Joshi            abstain  
Mr. C. Buscaglia abstain  
Mr. Caruso         yes

It was discussed that there are no radios in the bay area. If a member does not have his pager, and is in the bay, has no knowledge of what is going on. Discussion followed. A speak will be installed in the bay area.

**Audience:** Asst Chief Zuccarelli stated that in regards to the Baltimore incidents/incidents, he agrees that Mr. Garcia crossed the line. He also agrees that the Board did what they had to do. He continued to state that Mr. Goonetilleke is an extremely valuable member to the Fire Company. He strongly urged the board to reconsider the severity of the punishment for Mr. Goonetilleke. Bryan stated that he feels the punishment does not fit the crime. He added that Mr. Lengyel had resigned, but Mr. Goonetilleke again, is very valuable to the company. He stated that nothing excuses the behavior, but he would ask the Board to reconsider.

Mr. Caruso stated that he has never known Mr. Goonetilleke to do anything wrong or bad since becoming a member of the company. He continued that the severity of his actions in Baltimore depend on who you speak with. He spoke directly to Mr. Goonetilleke stating, "Andrew you do understand and are remorseful and that is great character, no matter what happened". He added that the suspension is six months from the date of the original letter.

Chief Zuccarelli stated that he feels the Board members sit in the front, acting as if they never did anything wrong. Mr. Youssef stated that the board cannot discharge what was done by these members. The Board are elected officials and it is their responsibility to take action.

It was relayed to the Board that Steven Lengyel resignation had nothing to do with the incidents, it is due to the fact that he will be attending apprentice school to be an electrician.

Mike Fogarty commented that the lines of communication has improved over the years, but the President (John) should have been given as much information as possible concerning the matter.

Mr. Youssef added that the Board can include anyone they want in an Executive Session.

Mr. Caruso added that in the past, individuals have been included in Executive Session, but then information has leaked out. Discussion followed.

Mr. Joshi added that he agrees with the Chief and the President, a lot of atomicity had occurred between the Board and the Fire Company. Such comments as "if you don't like the way it is, don't drive". Mr. Joshi feels those types of comments are uncalled for.

Mr. R. Buscaglia stated that he feels the resolution regarding suspension, is one of the hardest votes he ever had to make, but he feels the action needed to be taken to make a point. The clowning around has to stop before someone gets hurt. He stated, "I am sorry Andrew that you had to be the one to make an example, we do appreciate what you do for us".

A motion was made by Mr. R. Buscaglia and seconded by Mr. Story to adjourn the meeting at 10:00pm

Respectfully submitted:

Larry Story, Secretary