

**Board of Fire Commissioners
Fire District No. 1
P.O. Box 6903
Freehold, NJ 07728**

Special Workshop Meeting

May 7, 2018

Chairman John Toutouchi called the special workshop meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 7:30pm. Notice was read, and Chief Reifer led the flag salute. Roll call was taken. Present at the meeting were John Toutouchi, Andrew Story, Kevin Horan, Michael Fogarty and Stephen Lengyel. Also in attendance was Board Secretary-Rachel Davis.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Fogarty discussed a LOSAP bill, which needs to be paid. There is a discrepancy in the address—two addresses noted in the records. Mr. Fogarty will get the correct address. The amount is for \$9,524.10. Also, Sun National Bank contacted Mr. Fogarty about potentially bouncing checks, so he had to transfer \$50,000.

Motion made by Mr. Fogarty to approve the Treasurer's Report to transfer \$50,000 as well as to pay Glatfelter Specialty Benefits quarterly LOSAP bill \$9,524.10.

Second: Mr. Horan

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Chief's Car: Mr. Lengyel received the two estimates back from Freehold Ford and Freehold Township. Board reviewed the matter in detail with Chief Reifer and Captain Petersen. After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided not to fix Chief Reifer's car, but rather to bring it back and then decide what to do with it.

Motion made by Mr. Lengyel to not to make the repairs on the Chief's car at this time and to bring it back and park it for now.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

16-1-77: Captain Petersen gave an update since the last meeting. HME will not sign off on the repair. Board discussed the matter at length.

Motion made by Mr. Lengyel to strip and scrap 16-1-77.

Second: Mr. Fogarty

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

16-1-78: Captain Petersen discussed the rear-end needing fixing and realignment. He will keep the Board updated.

Audience:

Firefighters—Tom Caruso and Ross Caruso addressed the Board in looking for answers regarding the Stonehill fire incident. Tom Caruso specifically asked if the Board accepted Assistant Chief Craig Haas' report. Commissioner Horan, as the Point of Contact, stated that, as per his last e-mail, everything was sent to Mr. Caruso and that the matter was satisfied. Mr. Horan summed up the

meeting that the parties had with Chief Reifer as ending positive, lessons were learned and we were moving forward. Mr. Horan concluded that everyone on the scene made mistakes that day. Board members stated that they had read the reports, accepted all three reports and could not change the reports.

Mr. Caruso recounted the Stonehill fire incident along with other incidents, where he felt that Chief Haas was at fault and said that Chief Haas cannot own up to making mistakes. Mr. Caruso stated that if the Board wanted to put some blame on him, he'll take it, but Chief Haas should be removed for what he did. Mr. Caruso acknowledged that his mistake was assuming that Chief Haas had a digital radio. Mr. Caruso said that Chief Haas had apologized to him, but not on paper. Mr. Caruso further stated that he does not want the Board to do anything, he just wants an answer to his question: Does the Board accept Asst. Chief Haas' report and how it was handled and that what he did was okay? Mr. Fogarty clarified for the record that the Board accepted the report, not the contents of the report.

Mr. Caruso said he was told at a Commissioners' meeting that he would receive a report, and he had to OPRA it. Chairman Toutouchi clarified with Mr. Caruso that he received everything that the Board received on the Stonehill matter within seven business days, as per his OPRA request. Chairman Toutouchi also stated that no minutes were recorded at the meeting Chief Reifer had with the firemen at that scene, as per Chief Reifer. After speaking with counsel, documents that do not exist cannot be produced. Mr. Caruso agreed that he got everything from the Board and thanked Mr. Toutouchi for that.

Mr. Story advised Mr. Caruso that the Board would arrange for Asst. Chief Haas to come to the next Commissioners' meeting on May 22nd at 7:30pm and encouraged Mr. Caruso to attend. Mr. Story also invited Chief Reifer to that meeting.

(Board took a break at 8:30pm and was back at 8:37pm)

Mr. Story requested Chief Reifer to get all training details in writing to the Board. Assistant Chief Haas joined the meeting at 8:45pm, and Mr. Story invited him to the next Board of Commissioners' meeting to discuss the Stonehill fire incident.

Budget Discussion: Mr. Fogarty reviewed the budget calculations, as he prepared 2017 actuals vs. 2018 projected, attached. Board reviewed every item in detail and agreed on the following cuts:

- **IT Website:** Mr. Toutouchi said this was a standard rate government compliance. Mr. Fogarty will get in touch with Peter Hall to discuss it in more detail and will revisit with the Board.
- **Insurance:** Board discussed meeting with the agent to review the insurance policy to see if anything can be cut. Board also discussed making sure some of the disabled vehicles and former members are off the insurance.
- **Utilities:** Board addressed lights being left on and discussed motion sensors.
- **Cell Phone Hotspots:** Board will drop some hotspots. Mr. Fogarty will review the plan.
- **Maintenance:** Mr. Fogarty suggested to Chief Reifer that there possibly be a maintenance committee for LOSAP points in lieu of payment.
- **Gear:** Mr. Fogarty requested that Asst. Chief Lucas advise 2nd Lieutenant Frank Santore to provide a number for boots/gloves/helmets.
- **Gym Membership:** Board agreed that it is beneficial to the members' health, but will review the numbers and revisit.

- Class B Uniforms: Mr. Fogarty will speak with President Timo to advise him that the Board will hold off on the uniforms this year and will revisit next year.
- Food: Mr. Fogarty will speak with President Timo about the Board no longer paying for routine food (drills, structure fires, etc.); only food for emergency situations (stand-bys).
- Education & Training: Board reviewed all necessary training for the year. Mr. Story will arrange for the extrication basic class.

Banking: Mr. Fogarty discussed opening up a money market at Sun National Bank in order to have the money market account and checking account in one bank. Information was given to the Board members to review, and Mr. Fogarty will address at the next meeting.

CAS: The old code is disabled.

Harassment Class: Scheduled for Wednesday, May 30th, at 7pm.

Audience: Chief Lucas asked if guys go outside the Fire Company for training, would the Board accept any certification? Board will accept, but requires sign in sheet.

Motion made by Mr. Lengyel to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter at 10:27pm.

Second: Mr. Horan

5-0 all in favor

(back from executive at 10:45pm)

There being no further business, Mr. Horan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45pm.

Second: Mr. Lengyel

5-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Horan, Secretary

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