

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN
FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1**

**MINUTES OF
January 24, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order by President Nelson at 8:05 p.m. President Nelson announced that the meeting is being held in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act". Public Notice of this meeting was mailed to the Clerk of the Township of Ocean and posted at the Oakhurst Firehouse on February 23, 2010, and advertised in The Coaster and in the Atlanticville on March 4, 2010.

After a salute to the flag, a moment of silence was observed.

ATTENDANCE:

The following Board members were present: Thomas Reu, James Hiers, Scott Nelson, Russell Williams and Anthony Palmisano. Fire District Administrator J.David Hiers, Acting Fire Marshal Chris Pujat, Fire Inspector Craig Flannigan, Maintenance/Repair Technician Michael Fiorentino and the Fire Department and First Aid Squad Officers were also present.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the, December 20, 2010 meeting were read. There were no questions or comments. The minutes were accepted without change.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

EXPENSES:

Vouchers totaling \$ 50,592.62 were read and presented by Commissioner Reu. The vouchers were reviewed by the Board prior to the meeting and found to be correct. Reu motioned to pay all bills. Hiers seconded. Questions or comments on the bills.? There were none. Roll call vote of Reu, Hiers, Williams, Palmisano and Nelson was unanimous in favor of the motion.

DISTRICT NO. 1 ORGANIZATIONS' REPORTS:

Chief Dan Skinner reported 63 activities for the month. Average response time was :06:22. Average firefighters per call were 13, for a total of 791 members responding, experiencing 1,742 manhours. Mutual given to 53-1 was 2 times and none received. The Blizzard on the 26th of December created havoc within our community along with surrounding towns. A lengthy standby was held to deal with the severe issues at hand. Thanks to all who assisted. The Chief reported that John Kruse is now the engineer on engine 37-1-72. He also presented the Board with a list of those appointed as driver trainers for 2011 along with a list of personnel that have been appointed by the BOFC to be Driver Testers. The Chief also reported that Keith Finkelstein has passed the training and testing on Ladder Truck 37-1-90. The Chief along with the rest of the Officers echoed their thanks for the Board's Officers meeting last week.

FAS Captain D. Willms reported 103 total activities for the month which included 86 Emergency calls. Average response time was 5 minutes. A total of 387 Emergency Call Man Hours were experienced. Mutual Aid received was 7 times and given was 8 times. Captain Willms submitted the Jan.-Dec. percentages of the Squad to the Board. He along with the rest of the FA officers expressed their thanks for the Board's dinner meeting.

FAS Lt. K. Dougherty was questioning the time difference between the county dispatching and the "Rip & Run" times.

FAS Sgt. A. Beringer reported all the officers completed their 24 hour refresher training. He is trying to recruit past members to come back and be part of a good team. He is also looking into ways to increase the membership. They have some possible new comers joining.

Acting Fire Marshal Pujat reported 142 Inspections, including 31 State Registered Establishments, revealing 134 Violations, and 5 Investigations were conducted during the month. Fees collected for the month totaled \$1,586.00. One Permit Fee was processed this month for a total of \$ 166.00. The computers in 37-1-30,31,74,78 & the OFC were updated. Work was done on the knox box in 37-1-68. The ESP Pre Plan Software finally arrived and is now installed. He attended a Board of Adjustment by request due to overcrowding at the Copper Gables hearing on Deal Road next to Station 2. Maurita's computer crashed. Commissioner Reu had it repaired quickly and she is up and running.

Fire Inspector Flannigan reported on the meeting he attended with Scott Nelson and Jim Pemberton, Wanamassa Fire Chief, with Township Manager Andrew Brannen. He stated the meeting went well. The Manager heard the rear deal from the other side which the Manager did not hear before. A good outline prepared by 2010 Fire Chief Flannigan, explains the problems and concerns in detail concerning the volunteers frustrations and major concerns of not having to go through these unnecessary obstacles and hurdles again.

Maintenance/Repair Technician Fiorentino reported the Air Samples returned from the Cascade System were fine. He recommended that everyone use the Traction/skid footwear. The First Aid needs a smaller size. Will look to get a smaller size.

New Business :

Nelson noted that Valley National Bank is still charging us a finance charge on our Checking Account. The Administrator investigated and found out that Investors Savings in Deal is not charging a service fee at the present and will not during 2011. Nelson motioned to moved our Checking Account over to Investors Savings in the near future. Seconded by Hiers. No questions on the motion. Roll call vote of Williams, Reu, Palmisano, Hiers and Nelson was unanimous in favor of the motion. President motioned to transfer \$ 100,000 from our checking account into a MM at Investors Savings. Seconded by Hiers. No questions on the motion. Roll call vote of Williams, Reu, Palmisano, Hiers and Nelson was unanimous in favor of the motion. Nelson asked all the Commissioners to please sign the signature cards that Dave has after the meeting.

Nelson also gave a recap of the same meeting he attended with Flannigan and Wanamassa Chief Pemberton with Township Manager Brannen He stated the meeting was positive, with the Manager listening intently while the major issues were addressed. Nelson said he requested a post review meeting be held with all the involved groups, including the volunteers.

Nelson went over the Saint Barnabas Health physical exam program. He said that the immediate family is eligible at no cost for this exam. He also stated that the extended family could receive this exam by using their specialty co-pay from their insurance company. The Administrator was asked to get further information regarding the program.

Hiers stated that the Board/Employee/Officer dinner meeting went well on the 20th of Jan. He hope everyone had a good time. As was said that evening, the entire Board appreciates all that you do for our District. We thank you again.

Williams reported that Janice's new work station has been installed and looks good. We will be working on supplying electric along with computer lines to the station so she can move in and Mike can relocate from the upstairs office to the downstairs one. Also new furniture is planned to arrive at the end of Jan. for Mike's new office.

Palmisano reported that we received the signed "Certification of Approved Budget" from the State. Now it just has to be approved by the voters.

Hiers stated that the 3 new Chief's fire coats have arrived along with the 5 new Driver's coats. The Fire Marshall and Fire Inspector coats are in also.

Nelson stated that the new Fire District Administrator's proposed salary starting January 1, 2011 was discussed and agreed upon earlier in our December's meeting's Work Shop but we never approved it at the regular meeting. Nelson motioned to approve the starting salary of the FD Administrator at \$ 82,000 per year retro to January 1, 2011. Reu seconded the motioned. No questions were raised. Roll call vote of Williams, Reu, and Nelson were in favor of the motion. Palmisano and Hiers abstained. Motion passed.

Reu said the computer equipment was ordered and should be arriving within a few weeks. CDW-G is requesting that certain info be supplied so the equipment can be readied before shipping. Tom will take care of that. Tom also reported what happened on January 11th around 3 AM when the DSL internet connection was disconnected by AT&T for some unknown reason. Due to that error, we were without any internet for a day. We are not happy with AT&T and are looking to move to Verizon with their Broadband Service. Better service and at a lower cost.

Palmisano reported that the First Aid's " I AM RESPONDING" is up and running. The Board is paying for the 1 year contract for now.

Nelson said it is that time of year again, Fire District Elections. This year's election will be on February 19th here at the Fir House. He said he again urges all members and their family and friends to come out and support the Budget It does not look good when the voter turn out is really low, especially when our own members do not come out and support the Budget. Get the vote out.

Nelson announced to "Save the Date" - March 19th. The Board thru the Fire Department wishes to host the retirement party for Art Schenck. It will be held at the Renaissance with the same format and menu as Tim Smith's Retirement. Invitations will be sent out soon.

Hiers gave a short but important report regarding the Application before the Board of Adjustment to allow a school of 50 young men to live at the Copper Gables on Deal Road. There are safety concerns that need to be addressed. The Board is going to pay strict attention to this application.

Hiers moved to accept John Kruse as the Engineer on Engine 37-1-72 upon the Fire Chief's report and recommendation. Seconded by Reu. No questions were raised. Roll call vote of Williams, Reu, Palmisano, Hiers and Nelson was unanimous in favor of the motion. Hiers also motioned to accept Keith Finkelstein as a driver on Ladder Truck 37-1-90 again upon the Chief's report of him completing his driver's training course. Seconded by Reu. No questions. Roll call vote of Williams, Reu, Palmisano, Hiers and Nelson was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Nelson invited Art Schenck up to the front of the room. to again thank him on behalf of the Board and the residents of Fire District No. 1 for the excellent service he provided to the District for 21 years. Nelson presented Art with a clock inscripted with words most deserving to him. Nelson invited everyone to stay around and have some cake and coffee with Art and give him your well wishes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Equipment and Supplies - FD.....	Hiers
Equipment and Supplies - Fire Bureau.....	Nelson
Equipment and Supplies - FAS.....	Palmisano, Reu
OPTICOM.....	Reu, AFM Pujat
Hydrants.....	AFM Pujat

Per Chief Skinner, all the hydrants have been shoveled out the best to his knowledge.

Maintenance of Apparatus.....	Reu, Schenck
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Station Maintenance:	
Station No. 1:	Williams
Station No. 2:	Hiers
Conventions and Seminars	Palmisano
Insurance and Legal Liaison	Nelson
Liaison to Township of Ocean	Nelson
Fire District Safety/NFPA/OSHA	Hiers, Palmisano
Liaison to Fire District No. 2	Nelson
Liaison to Fire Department	Williams
Liaison to First Aid Squad	Palmisano
Liaison to Fire Marshal	Nelson
Liaison to Police Department	Reu
Human Resources	Reu, Palmisano

Questions or Comments ? Chief Skinner noted that a new member was taken into the Fire Department. His name is Eddie Sabio.

The meeting adjourned at 2050.

Respectfully Submitted,

J.David Hiers
Fire District Administrator

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