

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

MINUTES OF
April 23, 2012

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order by President Nelson at 8:10 PM. President Nelson announced that the meeting is being held in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act". Public Notice of this meeting was hand delivered to the Clerk of the Township of Ocean and posted at the Oakhurst Firehouse on March 2, 2012, and advertised in The Coaster and in the Atlanticville on March 8, 2012.

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 and Stu Newman. Fire District Administrator J. David Hiers, Fire Inspector Craig Flannigan, District Mechanic Michael Fiorentino and the Fire Department and First Aid Squad Officers were also present. Commissioner Williams was called to work and Fire Marshal Pujat was attending a Fire Prevention Convention for the week.

MINUTES:

Nelson - Minutes of Previous Meeting were placed on the table for everyone's review, comments or corrections. A motion was passed at the last meeting that from now on the minutes will be available prior to the meeting and not read at the meeting. If no corrections are noted, the Board by motion will accept them as written. Are there any questions pertaining to the March 26, 2012 minutes? If none, **Nelson** moved for them to be accepted as written. Second by **Reu**. There were no questions. Roll call vote of Newman, Reu, Hiers and Nelson were unanimous in favor of the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Incoming: A **letter** from the State Dept. of Health and Senior Services stating that the initial review of our application was received and that we are now eligible to continue the licensure process. A **letter** From the Eatontown PD acknowledging and granting permission for us to use their local radio frequency during mutual aid calls in Eatontown to better communicate.

EXPENSES:

The Bills this evening were reviewed by the Commissioners prior to the meeting and found to be OK. Copies of the bills were on the table for anyone to review. A Resolution to pay the Bills totaling \$ 46,284.92 was presented by Commissioner **Reu**. It was seconded by **Newman**. There were no questions. Roll call vote of Newman, Reu, Hiers and Nelson was unanimous in favor of the Resolution.

DISTRICT NO. 1 ORGANIZATIONS' REPORTS:

CHIEF E. Alexander reported 44 activities for the month. Average response time was 5 minutes 37 seconds. Average firefighters per call were 11, for a total of 445 members responding, experiencing 183 man-hours. Mutual aid was given 1 time and received 1 time (the 8 Robin Dr. house fire by Wanamassa, WLB, & Wayside). Chief thanked the Board for allowing all the chiefs to attend the FDIC. It was very productive and gained much knowledge, especially since we are looking into purchasing another apparatus.

1st Assistant Chief John Morrow also thanked the Board for attending the FDIC.

2nd Assistant Chief Bob Nelson thanked the Board also for the FDIC trip. Nelson said that on Wednesday 25th, there will be a Fit Test at Station 1. On Wednesday May 30th, there will be a smoke house drill at the Monmouth County Fire Academy.

Capt. C. Sorrentino – not in attendance.

1st Lt. D. Schenck said the extrication that was held at Bluetts Junk Yard went well.

2nd Lt. J. Kruse stated that Jeff Daley has finished his probationary period and is now a regular member.

FAS Captain L. Degurski had oral surgery done today and could not speak. On her behalf, 2nd Lt. Beringer gave the Captain's report. It was reported that there were 91 total activities for the month, which included 83 Emergency calls.

Average response time was 6.85 minutes. A total of 395 Emergency Call Man Hours were experienced. Mutual aid received 5 times and given was 2 times.

First Lt. K. Dougherty – said she along with FM Pujat is looking into getting a camera system demo installed on 37-1-58 for a one month trial. This will record as well as give a backing up view when in reverse. She is attending a Homeland Security Class on the 24th.

2nd Lt. A. Beringer – said that he held a driver's refreshing class with the theme of "taking care of the patient" when transporting them to the hospital. He also thanked District Mechanic Fiorentino with working with him in resolving the "air ride" issue with 37-1-58. Everything is working fine. There will be an Active Shooter Drill Thursday 26th.

Sgt. J. Brown – not in attendance.

Fire Inspector C. Flannigan – gave the Fire Marshal’s report. He reported 184 inspections, including 7 State Registered Establishments, revealing 183 violations, and 4 investigations were conducted during the month. Fees collected for the month totaled \$9,096. **Flannigan** stated that the American Cancer Society will hold their overnight walk-a-thon at Joe Palaia Park on May 19 & 20 with an estimated 500 people participating. He said that there is a lot of activity planned in the coming months and more detail will follow.

District Mechanic Fiorentino said the hydro testing will finish will be finished in the month of May. The apparatus pump testing will be on May 1 and the hose testing starts on May 4. He said the phone line has been run to the elevator and is ready to be connected so we can pass the annual inspection.

OLD BUSINESS:

Hiers – Gave a report on the FIDC Convention. He magnified the significance of this convention for those who attended. The wide variety of classes that were offered, gave those who were looking for specialized training, was made available to them. The convention offered a very busy scheduled and was taken advantaged by all 7 who attended. The exhibits offered a lot of new equipment, tools and specialty items. We spoke with a lot of the vendors that we deal with also. Hiers said he will go over with the Commissioners following the meeting of things that caught his attention and wanted to share with the rest of the Commissioners.

Reu – The 2 portable radios are still missing from ambulance 37-1-59. A police report if not made out as of yet will be filed this week with PD. Portable radios are required by the State if the ambulance is to be State Licensed. The FM received a price quote under State Contract from AA. R. Communications for \$801.25. **Reu** offered the Resolution to purchase 2 portable radios in the amount of \$801.25. Second by **Hiers**. There were no questions. Roll call vote of Newman, Reu, Hiers and Nelson was unanimous in favor of the Resolution.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nelson – The Board had discussion with the Board Attorney in reference to establishing a policy of administrative leave for firefighters charged with serious criminal offenses. The Oakhurst First Aid Squad requested a similar resolution for their department. In checking with the attorney, it is his opinion that the same Resolution is allowable for the first aid squad due to the fact the Board is responsible for the first aid equipment. The Board concurs with the attorney and Nelson offered the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF FIRE DISTRICT NO.1 TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN, ESTABLISHING A POLICY

**OF ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR FIRST AID SQUAD MEMBERS
CHARGED WITH SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENSES**

WHEREAS; The position of a volunteer first aid member 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 first aid 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 first aider 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 first aider but rather, is intended to protect the reputation and integrity of the volunteer first aid service in Fire District No. 1 Township of Ocean pending the resolution of the charges faced by the volunteer first aider.

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

1. Upon a member of the Oakhurst First Aid Squad being charged with a serious crime, said member shall be automatically suspended from performing any and all duties normally required of a volunteer first aider in the Township of Ocean Fire District No. 1.
2. The suspension imposed hereby is without prejudice to the interests of the volunteer first aider and said suspension shall not interfere with the first aider's seniority, benefits or status pending a favorable resolution of the charges against the first aider.
3. It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Oakhurst First Aid Squad to immediately report the filing of criminal charges against any member of the First Aid Squad to the Captain or President of the First Aid Squad who shall then report the arrest and charge to the Board of Fire Commissioners.
4. During the suspension period, the first aider 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 Captain and line officers of the Oakhurst First Aid Squad and that copies be posted on the official bulletin board of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Moved by: **Nelson**

Seconded by: **Reu**

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 Township of Ocean on the 23 day of April, 2012.

J. David Hiers

Fire District Administrator

Hiers – The Board is preparing to get started with the Blacktop Parking Lot project. To begin the process, engineering work and design needs to be done. Nelson Engineering has given us a proposal to do this work in the amount of \$27,000. **Hiers** offer the Resolution to hire Nelson Engineering to do the engineering for the amount of \$27,000. Second by **Reu**. There were no questions. Roll call vote of Newman, Reu, Hiers and Nelson was unanimous in favor of the Resolution. Hiers pointed out the Board does not intend to start this project until the Bay Floor Project is totally finished.

Newman – An update on Oakhurst EMS, the Board received a letter from the State Dept. of Health & Senior Services stating the initial review of the ambulance licensing was ok and it is ok to continue the licensure process, the FDA had the paper work completed for the Medicare Enrollment Application for billing purposes along with submitting the \$523 application fee, 37-1-57 & 37-1-59 have inspection stickers on the windshield after passing MV Inspection, the District Mechanic is making arrangements to have both ambulances properly labeled per State requirements, and the Trustees are preparing for the hiring process which should be shortly.

Reu – The Baltimore Firehouse Expo is approaching quickly. Those who are planning to attend should let the FDA know so reservations can be made. The Expo runs from July 18 – 21, staying over 3 nights, Wed, Thurs, & Fri. nights.

Nelson – The use of the Firehouse by any member of the organizations is a privilege and fringe benefit. The Board asks that all who use it treat it that way and understand that the fire or first aid members have to respond here for

emergencies. It is asked that a member must fill out a request form and mark the calendar in Station 1 in the bay area for requested date. The forms will be revised so it is understood that parking should be on the north and/or west side of the building. When turning in the request form to the FDA, he too is to remind the member so the member can inform his party. Neglect or failure to do so, especially when reminded, can result in the temporary suspension of this privilege.

Comments: Addie Meistrich reminded everyone of the First Aid Dinner on May 5.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. David Hiers
Fire District Administrator

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