

TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
Board of Fire Commissioners
Fire District No. 2
Minutes of the Agenda and Regular Meetings
Wednesday, January 9, 2013

The Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 met at the Monroe Township Fire District #2 & EMS building, 10 Halsey Reed Road, Monroe Township, New Jersey for an Agenda and Regular Meeting.

Chairman Mahler called the meeting to order with a Salute to the Flag at 7:05 pm. Chairman Mahler asked for a moment of silence for all firefighters and military who have died in the performance of their duties, and the children of Newtown, CT.

UPON ROLL CALL made by Commissioner Martin Berkowitz, the following members of the Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 were present: Martin Berkowitz, Glenn Borsuk, Maurice Mahler and Lawrence Reisch. Ed Mitnowsky was not present.

ALSO PRESENT: Board Attorney Richard J. Shaklee, Esquire, and Val Cier, Recording Secretary. There were no career firefighters present.

There was one volunteer/support firefighters present.

There were two members of the public present: Charlie DiPierro and Les Barta

Chairman Mahler announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, having been published in the December 31st newspaper, and posted on the bulletin board of the Office of the Township Clerk.

AGENDA MEETING

Chairman Mahler reported there will not be a closed session tonight.

Commissioner Reisch stated the board will need to amend the budget tonight. Attorney Shaklee stated the board will need to:

- Amend the budget
- Pass a resolution to pass the budget by title
- Open the meeting to the public hearing portion to allow for comments
- Pass the resolution to adopt the budget

Chairman Mahler asked the board to review the minutes. Commissioners Borsuk and Commissioner Reisch and Chairman Mahler had corrections to various pages of the minutes.

Commissioner Borsuk asked a company to look at the microphones(mics)/sound system and they found the mics are not wired properly. They had a proposal of \$312.50 to do some wiring to see if it fixes the problem. If not, new mics would cost \$322 a piece. Commissioner Borsuk feels the board can get a lower price for mics.

Commissioner Borsuk and Chairman Mahler feel it would be good to start with fixing wires.

Commissioner Berkowitz reported that he sent the Township Clerk a letter to post the budget. He will follow up with correction, and the recording secretary will send the new adopted

budget to clerk and 10 public places.

7:13pm Les Barta arrived

Commissioner Reisch received a letter from the insurance company, Vandyke, on the premium for the new policy. The premium is \$82,952, an increase of \$4-5,000 from last year. Reviewed the paperwork with the chief and found some discrepancies. Chief Carbin has emailed the insurance company twice with no response. It may increase the premium based on the findings.

Chairman Mahler reported on the consolidation committee. There is a line in the agreement to hire Les Adams as a consultant and the 3 fire districts don't want to hire him. In addition, for the hiring of the township chief doesn't show what the chief does, so that is an open item.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, the agenda meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz

Aye Borsuk

Aye Mahler

Aye Reisch

REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Mahler called the regular meeting to order with a Salute to the Flag at 7:34 pm.

Chairman Mahler asked for a moment of silence for all firefighters and military who have died in the performance of their duties, and the children of Newtown, CT.

UPON ROLL CALL made by Commissioner Martin Berkowitz, the following members of the Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 were present: Martin Berkowitz, Glenn Borsuk, Maurice Mahler, and Lawrence Reisch. Edward Mitnowsky was not present.

ALSO PRESENT: Board Attorney Richard J. Shaklee, Esquire, and Val Cier, Recording Secretary. There was one career firefighter present: Chief Carbin.

There was one volunteer firefighter/support present: Jeff Dunham

There were three members of the public present: Charlie DiPierro, Les Barta and Henry Sloan.

Chairman Mahler announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, having been published in the December 31st newspaper, and posted on the bulletin board of the Office of the Township Clerk.

MINUTES

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion on the Minutes.

UPON MOTION MADE by Lawrence Reisch and seconded by Glenn Borsuk, a motion was adopted to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2012 agenda and regular meetings, as amended.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Reisch

ADOPTION OF 2013 FIRE DISTRICT BUDGET

Commissioner Borsuk read the Resolution to amend the 2013 budget, changing the total budget amount from \$3,532,375.00 to \$3,517,675.00 and the amount to be raised by taxation from \$3,351,375.00 to \$3,336,675.00

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, to approve the 2013 total budget in the amount of \$3,517,675.00.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Reisch

Attorney Shaklee read a resolution that the budget will be adopted by title, having been published in 10 public places in accordance with statute.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, to approve the

resolution of the 2013 budget, as read by title.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Reisch

Chairman Mahler opened the meeting to the public. Commissioner Reisch explained that the budget is going down from .257 to .252.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, to adopt the 2013 budget as amended.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Reisch

CLAIMS AGAINST THE BOARD

Chairman Mahler asked the board to review the claims against the board.

Commissioner Reisch read the report:

General Operating Claims Total	\$178,881.74
Capital Project Claims Total	\$0.00
Net Payroll Claims Total	\$ 73,823.37
Total Claims Against the Board	\$252,705.11

December 13, 2012 - January 9, 2013

UPON MOTION MADE by Lawrence Reisch and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, claims against the Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 were approved in the amount of \$252,705.11.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Reisch

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chairman Mahler asked for the treasurer's report.

Commissioner Reisch reported the following as of January 9, 2013

Hudson City Savings Bank:

Unrestricted Funds	\$967,754.01
Restricted Funds	\$246,080.15
Capital Projects	\$22,634.81
Cash on Hand	\$170.00
Total Balance	\$1,236,638.97

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Mahler asked Commissioner Borsuk to make a motion on the microphones.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, to have KSB Telesound re-do the solder on the microphones and reset the adjustments on the amplifiers for \$312.50.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Reisch

Chief Carbin will follow up on the crack in building with contractor.

Chairman Mahler stated he hasn't heard anything from the solar representative. Chief Carbin stated the kiosk was up and went out about a week ago. He will have Jason Martin take a look at it.

Chairman Mahler asked the Chief if there is enough light in parking area. Chief Carbin will look at it.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Mahler asked for the correspondence to be read. Commissioner Berkowitz had no correspondence.

Chief Carbin reported on response from Mike Mcgrath, insurance agent, to the questions on the policy, and he was told that since it's a fleet package, the coverage or premium won't change.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU REPORT

Chairman Mahler asked for the Fire Prevention Report.

Chief Carbin reported the following:

- Active shooter and highway accident online training class/tutorial available
- 70 more smoke detector tests more than this time last year
- Reviewed Incident run log calls - only 58 calls this month
- New cabinet LED lights going in 57-2
- Fire prevention vehicle is in service, only waiting on side decal

- New supplier for uniforms in Freehold
- Plaque should be here next week for truck

Chairman Mahler questioned if there should be a truck dedication. Chief Carbin felt it wouldn't be necessary. If so, it should be kept small.

APPLEGARTH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

President Jeff Dunham reported that he received letter for Fire election. It was sent in error. Voting will take place in new firehouse.

OPEN TO THE BOARD

Chairman Mahler stated that the commissioners of district 3 met with Wayne Hamilton, and they don't want anything to do with the consolidation report.

Chairman Mahler stated if the election held on 2/16 and the budget passes what is the problem? Why pursue consolidation. The group will need to wait until after March for the re-organization. Mr. Hamilton said the mayor said same thing.

Chairman Mahler stated the township agrees not to hire Les Adams. In agreement, there is no statement of what Chief will do in his role. Is it for administrative, trucks, rank and file, and budget? Commissioner Reisch read last paragraph in letter about township wide chief which was very vague. Attorney Shaklee stated the letter has not been approved. The terms of the agreement will control what the chief will do, the agreement says to establish Operating guidelines, training, responsibility of firefighter and other personnel, etc.

Chief Carbin stated they are not even close to giving a job description. The committee has to create a job description, review resume, then commissioners would have representative for 2nd interview, after operation chiefs do first interview. They are not close to having a job description and duties. Everything is ready to go when the time comes.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Charlie DiPierro stated that district 1 volunteers are talking to the township to get a contract with the township if there is not a township wide chief. Mr. Hamilton said nothing will happen this year since it's an election year. Mr. Hamilton said they should move forward with Station 57. Each board has their opportunity to move forward.

Les Barta reported that Doug Martin resigned, and Les is acting chair until the re-organization. District 3 is interested in moving forward. They are in agreement to remove Les Adams. The current budget does include the shared service township wide chief (\$40k). District 3 met and had a consensus last nite. They have the same questions about chief, and many additional questions, some pertaining to performance.

Attorney Shaklee stated there are 3 provisions reference with the contract and they need clarification. It mentions:

1. 10 year
2. 24 month
3. Tied to termination of the contract (three provisions for chief)

SSA (shared service agreement). Dist 3 is looking to push forward with shared service, but there are some questions on wording.

Commissioner Borsuk even though we are okay with moving forward, and the township is not ready to do anything this year, there is no need for the board to push it. Les Barta stated they will continue work on resolving wording and clarifying answers to their questions. All four District 3 commissioners are in agreement.

Commissioner Reisch asked Charlie DiPierro if District 1 board is in agreement with shared services and township wide chief. Charlie DiPierro reported that District 1 is in agreement, and budgeted for it. Mr. Hamilton wrote a 3 page letter to the Mayor with concerns. The township is not going to move forward this year and suggested to the volunteers to get a contract with the town.

Commissioner Borsuk stated we have a year to figure out how to handle this. Rather than focus on SS agreement, why can't we come together to fix the root issues.

Chairman Mahler and Commissioner Reisch are interested in looking at joint contract. Les Barta said they were interested in joint contract too. Attorney Shaklee stated it has been mentioned to past chairman, Martin, to do joint contract, and district 3 was not interested. Commissioner Borsuk stated they approached district 3 for the past 3 years and always shot down by district 3. Les Barta was not aware and feels it was not communicated to the other members of the board.

Chief Carbin feels the committee for the township wide chief should have a meeting in April/May to continue discussions. They came up with the requirements for the applicant, put it together and it was supposed to go out in January. He will forward to Les Barta since District 3's board did not see it, although Mr. Martin had a copy.

District 3 is in favor of a volunteer force. Their board agreed and they don't want to draw from other volunteers, but open to solutions to grow volunteers.

Les Barta stated in the letter mentioned earlier, there are different parts for fire district and fire authorities and their responsibilities. The districts need to clarify with the township, the appropriate title (Title 5 is the operation side).

Mr. Sloan asked if the solar power on firehouse worked for the firehouse when power went out. Chief Carbin clarified that the district sells it back to JCPL. The Inverters don't have enough power to run firehouse.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Mahler stated there is no need for a closed session.

ADJOURN

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion to adjourn.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, the meeting was adjourned.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Reisch

MARTIN BERKOWITZ
Board Secretary
MAURICE MAHLER
Chairman

NOTE: Appendixes can be obtained upon request from the Board Secretary.

PREPARED BY: Val Cier