

TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
Board of Fire Commissioners
Fire District No. 2
Minutes of the Agenda and Regular Meetings
Wednesday, February 13, 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 7:02 pm. Chairman Mahler asked for a moment of silence for all firefighters and military who have died in the performance of their duties.

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, Edward Mitnowsky and Lawrence Reisch. **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/support firefighters present: Jason Martin
There were three members of the public present.

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

AGENDA MEETING

Chairman Mahler asked the board to review the minutes. Attorney Shaklee had corrections to page 7. Commissioners Reisch would like to speak about the remarks Commissioner Borsuk made regarding Shared Services last month, in the regular meeting.

Chairman Mahler asked the board to review the claims against the board. Commissioner Mitnowsky mentioned the heating Oil bill was \$2000 for one month at the Applegarth firehouse. Commissioner Borsuk believes the heat is set at 60 degrees, and they would like to also get lockable thermostats.

Chairman Mahler stated there was a poll taker check cut for Paul Kofsky and should be Paula Kofsky. There was also a check for "Remi Morris", who is not a poll taker. Commissioner Reisch will call Accountant Dan Carlstrom and Commissioner Berkowitz will return the check to Accountant.

Commissioner Reisch stated they he sees "vision" on the claims, but not life insurance or dental on the claims. Commissioner Borsuk stated dental and life insurance is on page 2 of the claims.

Chairman Mahler questioned the firehouse heating claim, since there is a bill for it on page 2. Chairman Mahler asked Attorney Shaklee to find out if there is any coverage/warranty on the heating system since it's less than 3 years old.

Chairman Mahler stated he has election signs to go in the lobby of Stonebridge, Renaissance,

and each of the community's clubhouses. Sal Profaci is taking down election signs in the township. Commissioner Borsuk will call him to find out why are they being taken down now, and why November election signs are never removed.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, the agenda meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Mahler called the regular meeting to order with a Salute to the Flag at 7:30 pm.

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

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, Edward Mitnowsky and Lawrence Reisch.
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: Jason Martin
There were no members of the public present.

Chairman Mahler announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, having been published in the newspapers, 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 Ed Mitnowsky, a motion was adopted to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2013 agenda and regular meetings, as amended.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
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 \$177,569.34
Capital Project Claims Total \$0.00
Net Payroll Claims Total \$ 98,746.05
Total Claims Against the Board \$276,315.39
January 10, 2013 - February 15, 2013

UPON MOTION MADE by Lawrence Reisch and seconded by Glenn Borsuk, claims against the Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 were approved in the amount of \$276,315.39.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chairman Mahler asked for the treasurer's report.

Commissioner Reisch reported the following as of February 13, 2013

Hudson City Savings Bank:

Unrestricted Funds	\$691,298.72
Restricted Funds	\$246,080.15
Capital Projects	\$22,634.81
Cash on Hand	\$170.00
Unrestricted due from Capital	\$52,425.99
Restricted due from Capital	\$12,799.50
Total Balance	\$960,183.68

CORRESPONDENCE

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

Commissioner Reisch felt there should be key points made to the public at the polling locations. He reviewed the idea with Chairman Mahler and Commissioner Borsuk about having a flyer for the poll takers, if questions are asked about the budget. Chairman Mahler suggested putting it in as a poster format displaying the key points:

- This year's budget is lower than last year
- Fire district tax rate is less than last year
- Approved and Certified by local finance board
- Within 2% cap for the State of NJ
- Your boards of commissioners are taxpayers, like you, and keeping the fire tax rate

Attorney Shaklee stated you can't politic within 200 feet. This is not politicking, its only facts on budget.

Chairman Mahler asked about heating system repair. Chief Carbin stated it only had a 2 year warranty and it was extended. The heating system was past warranty.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU REPORT

Chairman Mahler asked for the Fire Prevention Report.

Chief Carbin reported the following:

- Training - 2 courses per month online and firefighters get their certificates
- 402 smoke detector tests in 2012 (this revenue offsets firefighter recertification and shows that sales and rentals are picking up in the district)
- New Senior Center had a water pipe break

There is a sign for the Senior Center on the corner of Applegarth Rd and there isn't a clear sign on Halsey Reed Rd on where to turn. People are coming into Firehouse. Chief Carbin stated the township has a department that can make a sign "3rd driveway on left" to prevent this.

- FEMA has signed off on claim and now waiting for reimbursement of \$69,154.92.
- Received township reimbursement for 2011/2012 Insurance in the amount of about \$85,000. Chief Carbin will be sending out the new bill to the township.
- District will pay for generator repair at Applegarth

Jason Martin stated Honeywell is working on a patch to allow Jason to do the install himself to correct system. The people that did the phone system, cable, router (Pro-Media), are not responding. Jason needs a password to the Comcast router and they won't respond. The Key fob system allows everyone access to get into building. EMS upgraded their system and to get the computers to talk to one another, he needs a password to get into the Comcast system. It will allow access to all the Monroe Township Fire/EMS buildings.

APPLEGARTH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

There was no representation from volunteers for a report.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Mahler opened the meeting to the public.

Commissioner Reisch wanted to comment on a remark from last month's meeting. Glenn inferred there are communication problems with the 3 districts, and by hiring a township chief it won't solve all the problems.

Commissioner Borsuk said, why can't we resolve the problems now without a township chief. Commissioner Reisch stated that after the election, why can't the 3 districts get together to discuss and correct the problems. Most commissioners feel the township chief will create problems in the district. Why can't the chiefs try to work out the problem, since they are closest to it. It will cost \$150,000, over a 3 year period, in our one district alone. The board should ask Mr. Hamilton to give 6 months for the chiefs to alleviate the problems.

Chairman Mahler stated it's a good idea but a lot of effort went into the township proposal. Commissioner Borsuk stated this was put on back burner by the township. Chairman Mahler Stated the township still wants the board to sign the agreement. Commissioner Reisch questioned why Mr. Hamilton is so insistent on district 1 signing a contract as a separate entity.

Commissioner Borsuk clarified that last month he was stating if the township was not pushing the issues, the board should move forward slowly. If there is a way to fix the issues, let's get together to review the issues and try to fix them. Get the chief from each district and a

chairman from each. Commissioner Borsuk's expectation is that it won't go anywhere because of past track records, but he doesn't want to make the assumption with all the new players involved. It may be a one meeting and done. There is no attempt to undermine the proposed agreement. Chairman Mahler agrees with what is being said.

Chief Carbin mentioned that the District 3 Chief may be staying until the end of the year. Chairman Mahler stated they don't know who the chairman will be of district 3 until their reorganization meeting. He would like to wait until after March and have the chiefs, chairman, and attorneys meet. Attorney Shaklee stated that an attorney wouldn't need to be there initially for this type of meeting. Attorney Shaklee said the board can have joint purchasing and joint meetings. You don't need the township to make those things happen now.

Board agrees that nothing can be done until after the reorganization meeting. Chief Carbin feels there is a better chance now of having a discussion than in previous years.

Commissioner Berkowitz stated all the commissioners will meet at 1pm on Saturday to review what is being delivered to the polling locations. There are provisional ballots, ballots, and the Ponds have to be informed that someone will pick up ballot box at the end of the election. Jason Martin agreed to pick ballot box at Ponds.

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 Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

MARTIN BERKOWITZ
Board Secretary
MAURICE MAHLER
Chairman

NOTE: Appendixes can be obtained upon request from the Board Secretary.
PREPARED BY: Val Cier