

TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
Board of Fire Commissioners
Fire District No. 2
Minutes of the Agenda and Regular Meetings
Wednesday, June 13, 2012

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 7:00 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 passing of Commissioner Borsuk's mother.

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, Maurice Mahler, Edward Mitnowsky and Lawrence Reisch. Commissioner Borsuk was not present.

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

There were no volunteer/support firefighters present.

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, posted on the bulletin board of the Office of the Township Clerk and notices sent to those requesting such.

AGENDA MEETING

Chairman Mahler asked if there were any corrections to last month's minutes.

Commissioner Reisch asked about page 5 of last month's meeting regarding what is happening with the grant writer, Alana. Chairman Mahler mentioned she is now with a company and there was discussion on whether or not to keep her. Commissioner Reisch asked what the reference to American Water. Recording Secretary will need to review the tape since Commissioner Borsuk is not present.

Chairman Mahler stated \$1200 per year is paid to the grant writer. There was discussion amongst the board regarding eliminating the grant writer. Going forward, all 3 districts should apply for grants, and next year, there may not be a need to pay the company Alana works for in order to save funds.

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

7:12pm - Norman Olinsky, John Fichera and Mel Nudelman arrived.

Chairman Mahler stated the roof has stopped leaking. Attorney Shaklee stated there was something about the floor that had to be corrected, based on his recollection of the letter he had sent to Santorini.

Chairman Mahler asked Attorney Shaklee to review a document from insurance company. Attorney Shaklee explained that under NJ law, for someone to sue a public entity, you have to

file a tort claim. The fire department is a public entity. The insurance company is recommending their proposed form be used.

Commissioner Reisch would like to wait until Chief Carbin returns for his input since he sits on the insurance board. Attorney Shaklee stated the insurance company will want the board to adopt a resolution to use their form if there is a need to file a claim.

FIRE PREVENTION

Chairman Mahler read Chief Carbin's Fire Prevention report:

- 56 calls this month - board can review incident log
- 9/11 Monument was installed - lilies/stones will be placed around it. Will plan a 9/11 service at the monument.
- 6/21 Chief Carbin will be at the Fire Academy
- Received insurance check
- Received a plaque from Essex County for assisting with water after hurricane
- Chief Carbin recommended a Disciplinary Review Committee be established if complaint brought forth by any person (1 commissioner, 1 volunteer, 1 career, Chief and alternate)

Chairman Mahler asked Attorney Shaklee for his thoughts. Attorney Shaklee recommended not creating a disciplinary review committee. May consider a committee to mediate disputes, but in terms of discipline, it shouldn't be in the hands of a committee. It's a management responsibility.

Chairman Mahler asked what if a person is coming forward, how do we get unbiased ear. Attorney Shaklee stated discipline of career firefighter, if penalty, is suspension and it requires hearing, which could be the board or chief, some get independent resource.

7:26pm Dennis Cronin arrived

Attorney Shaklee stated that discipline is a management function. At the most, the chief and a commissioner can be involved. Attorney Shaklee would like to know more about what the chief is looking for and he will discuss it with him further. Commissioner Reisch agrees chief should handle discipline as management.

Commissioner Mitnowsky has a concern with some career firefighters not acknowledging or recognizing commissioners. Chairman Mahler stated its disparaging how some career firefighters act toward commissioners. Attorney Shaklee will speak to Chief Carbin and provide some recommendations to the chief. Commissioner Reisch stated it's the chief's responsibility to speak to firefighters on how to address the concerns of the board.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Ed Mitnowsky, the agenda meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Mahler called the regular meeting to order with a Salute to the Flag at 7:31 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 passing of Commissioner Borsuk's mother.

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, Maurice Mahler, Edward Mitnowsky and Lawrence Reisch. Commissioner Borsuk was not present.

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

There were five volunteer firefighters/support present: Dennis Cronin, Norman Olinsky, Mel Nudelman, Ben Vivona and John Fichera

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

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 May 9, 2012 agenda and regular meetings.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz

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	\$231,877.68
Capital Project Claims Total	\$0.00
Net Payroll Claims Total	\$128,870.75
Total Claims Against the Board	\$355,748.43
May 10, 2012 - June 13, 2012	

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 \$355,748.43.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chairman Mahler asked for the treasurer's report.

Commissioner Reisch reported the following as of June 13, 2012

Hudson City Savings Bank:

Unrestricted Funds	\$347,234.43
Restricted Funds	\$246,080.15
Capital Projects	\$58,054.41
Cash on Hand	\$170.00
Total Balance	\$651,538.99

Commissioner Reisch reported he still hasn't received quarterly check from the township, which usually comes in around the 8th of the month.

Commissioner Reisch asked for \$4800 from township, that they owe board, and annoyed that the township is taking 6-8 months to reimburse the board. It should have been paid after the February election. Chief Carbin is following up and was expecting a report on the topic from the chief.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Mahler reported that the building leaks have been fixed, and Attorney Shaklee with speak to Chief Carbin to determine if all is done with the floors.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU REPORT

Chairman Mahler reviewed the Fire Prevention Report at the agenda meeting.

APPLEGARTH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

President Dennis Cronin reported:

- Commissioner Borsuk's mother passed away and the viewing is this Friday; funeral on Saturday at AC Cole Funeral Home.
- Tish O'Connor's husband passed away yesterday and the viewing is tomorrow and Friday at Lester Memorial. Chairman Mahler asked Commissioner Berkowitz to send condolences to Tish.

- Building lease is at a 6 month mark, suggested working on next year's lease with Board. Chairman Mahler is waiting for Mark Davis to call him.

Dennis asked for information on consolidation. Chairman Mahler stated there are benchmarks that were approved by consolidation committee. There will be conclusive meetings occurring. It should be announced to the public in the next few months. This board is happy with how things are working out.

MISCELLANEOUS

Chairman Mahler stated the board may need another special meeting.

Commissioner Reisch questioned why district 1 and district 2 have meetings without district 3 being involved. Nothing will be accomplished without district 3. Attorney Shaklee stated if the meeting is about the benchmarks, then all 3 districts should be involved. Chairman Mahler will report on what will occur on Monday's township meeting. Wayne Hamilton may need two commissioners from each district and their attorneys.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Mahler opened the meeting to the public.

Norm Olinsky stated in April 2012, he submitted a list to the board and chief for gear for fire police. Volunteers are not easy to come by and to lose dedicated experience is a shame. They've lost a few already. He was told they would get funding. The fire police are trained in CPR, AED and first responder's class. They continue to train to save lives, but they don't exist. Mr. Olinsky doesn't think the board or chief care. It's only a few thousand dollars to save lives. They are putting in so much time. Other township like this team of fire police-South Brunswick and Jamesburg.

Chairman Mahler stated this is the first time he is hearing this since he thought Chief Carbin was helping the fire police. Mr. Olinsky submitted the list 3 times to the chief.

Attorney Shaklee stated at the last meeting, Chief Carbin was looking at more reasonable rates, and there was no SOG for fire police. That would be two reasons why it wasn't pursued.

Mr. Olinsky reported that the SOG was submitted weeks ago to Mark Davis. Mr. Olinsky reviewed the SOG and pricing with Chief Carbin 3 weeks ago.

At a fire, the chief can use the fire police; police can call them if there is an accident. There is no legal technicality to stop them. Chairman Mahler stated they need to get recognized by police chief. Commissioner Reisch thought there was a legal technicality with the police department. If there is no legal technicality, then the chief should be purchasing what is needed.

Mr. Olinsky stated it would be \$400 x 8 fire police - \$3600 total.

Dennis Cronin bought the vests at the best prices they can get. Chairman Mahler stated he will call Chief Carbin to take care of fire police on Friday. Commissioner Mitnowsky will take care of this on behalf of the board. He will call Mark Davis and Chief Carbin to take care of this by next Monday. There is no need to get bids.

Mr. Olinsky stated he gave the SOG to Mark Davis to give to Chief Carbin.

UPON MOTION MADE by Ed Mitnowsky and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, to approve up to \$4000.00 to purchase equipment for the fire police, as mandated by the state of NJ.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

Attorney Shaklee stated to put in a requisition for payment.

CLOSED SESSION

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

ADJOURN

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion to adjourn.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Berkowitz and seconded by Ed Mitnowsky, the meeting was adjourned.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
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