

TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
Board of Fire Commissioners
Fire District No. 2
Minutes of the Agenda and Regular Meetings
Wednesday, August 12, 2009

The Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 met at the Applegarth Volunteer Engine Company No. 1 Firehouse, Applegarth Road, Monroe Township, New Jersey for an Agenda 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.

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 Valerie J. Cier, Recording Secretary.

There were no career firefighters present.

There were no volunteer firefighters present.

The following were present from the public: Brian Moore - Epic

Chairman Mahler announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, having been published in the March 27, 2009 newspaper, 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. The commissioners had some grammatical corrections to various pages of the minutes

Board Attorney Shaklee requested minutes be mailed to him going forward.

Commissioner Reisch asked if Attorney got dates for Speiezzle bills, based on last months meeting discussion. Chief Carbin was to supply Attorney Shaklee with dates on bills to ensure we are being billed correctly.

Commissioner Reisch-Hydrant fees - has a letter been drafted for hydrant fees. Attorney does not have the list from the Chief Carbin of other local companies not being charged.pg 6

Commissioner Reisch questioned Chairman Mahler spoke to Dan Carlstrom regarding speaking to firefighter pg 6

Chairman Mahler-review claims

Chairman Mahler- utility truck completed. Commissioner Borsuk-radio has to be programmed; everything else is done. 57-3 tower should be back next week.

Chairman Mahler-bldg committee report at reg mtg. cmx questioned how many visits as per contract, Attorney Shaklee has unlimited meetings, one is for punch list, one for f/u on completion of punch list, 2 site visits. Brian feels that should be sufficient, unless they run into a problem.

asked Attorney to write letter to cmx for additional site visits.

7:20 pm Manny silverman, 8c ingram drive, Concordia, arrived.

Commissioner Reisch-no problem covering fees.....(tape)

Chairman Mahler-correspondence

7:22pm Firefighter Barta arrived

Commissioner Berkowitz-read letter from board regarding FEMA grant. Made report to clearbrook, Linda Greenstein was there for energy. Asked if she interceded would , she is a source for us to get grants from state and county.

Chairman Mahler got phone call from rush holt, approved us for construction fema grant.

Commissioner Reisch-had conversation with insurance broker on renewing insurance. Had many speak to Chief Carbin.

Ed-there is an article in his paper, Encore Speaks

Commissioner Borsuk-prices on concrete pads out front

Rich-jackie shanes email. Something happened with the rating of one of the companies, she will ..no choice, it has to be done. Wants permission from board to move forward.

Commissioner Reisch-std and poors wanted something. Danny was supposed to do something. Attorney will have Jacquie talk to dan carlstrom

Buddy Ball -letter to Ms. Reisner in response to her letter from chairman.

7:31m - Member of the public, Jason Martin, and Lt. Riley arrived

UPON MOTION MADE by Lawrence Reisch and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, the agenda meeting was adjourned at 7:31p.m.

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 7:45 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, Ed Mitnowsky and Lawrence Reisch.

ALSO PRESENT: Board Attorney Richard J. Shaklee, Esquire and Valerie J. Cier, Recording Secretary.

There were no career firefighters present.

There was one volunteer firefighters present: Dan Medina

There were two members of the public present: Brian Moore

Chairman Mahler announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, having been published in the March 27, 2009 newspaper, 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 Glenn Borsuk, a motion was adopted to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2009 agenda and regular meetings, 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.

General Operating Claims Total	165,382.37
Capital Project Claims Total	154,798.74
Net Payroll Claims Total	61,059.50
Total Claims Against the Board	
July 11, 2009 - August 12, 2009	377,369.70

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Ed Mitnowsky, claims against the Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 were approved in the amount of \$377,369.70.

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 July 10, 2009:

Sovereign Bank:

Unrestricted Funds	\$3,165.25
Capital Projects	\$32,641.05

Hudson City Savings Bank:

Unrestricted Funds	\$394,281.29
Restricted Funds	\$416,367.00
Capital Projects	\$4,061,845.35
Cash on Hand	\$170.00
Total Balance	\$4,908,333.86

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU REPORT

Commissioner Borsuk reviewed the report on behalf of chief Carbin.

- Reviewed incidents
- Run analysis - up from prior months (73 calls)
- Utility 57-9 is back from conversion, only need radios programmed
- Tower 57 received insurance check, should be back next week
- Truck committee - 10 to 12 week should have specs
- Tri-district 2 commit> hydrant fees to be reduced; radio committee dispatch with police
- Approval - purchase new thermal imaging camera - 8 and 10 yr old. About \$4500.00, need 1, was planned for in budget

Upon motion \$4500 for a thermal imaging camera, glenn, and larry second.

Roll call

Purchase new radio for 578 - \$4700.00 plus installation. Not in budget.

Glenn motion, larry second

Roll call

- 574 needs welding for a leak, will be done inhouse by a local vendor, MJS. Attorney-can have a time and material contract with a company over a year. Prudent to get a quote from someone else.

APPLEGARTH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Commissioner borsuk reported on behalf of President Medina:

- august 30, 1-5pm, at eagle river day camp, 57 and 51 hosting picnic
- If comm. Will attend to give a count.

MEETING OPEN TO THE BOARD

Comm. Berkowitz gave report on tri-district mtg he attended.

....

Night out...

Dist 1 not going with new station

Dist 3 generator discussion

Fire zone parking

Pumpkin decorating contest for brothers helping brothers.

Discussion on consolidation-Why so many commissioner

No representative

Discussion on hydrant fees

If discussion begin their could be repercussion

There should be more ...between the commissioners

Mention by Charlie diperrio..that the twp wants to sell the water svc to a private co for 220 million.

Police dispatch and if correct info is provided, may need dispatcher training

Dist 3 has a habit of sending notices to twp on what they were doing. New truck in memory of 9/11 firefighter. Commissioner Berkowitz-asked to provide heads up to fd2

Chairman Mahler-

Commissioner Reisch-Chief Carbin told Commissioner Reisch that a committee was to be formed of comm. Regarding the fire hydrants. Chair of dist 1 not interested in being part of that committee. Charlie Dipierro. Dist 3 was in favor. Have asked Attorney to be in touch w/ twp. Want 50% reduction. Over 80,000.00 a year. If a committee not formed, would like to see dist 2 go on their own to pursue the savings.

Chief Carbin asked if Commissioner Reisch wanted to be on committee. Daytime meetings would be fine, otherwise Commissioner Reisch would be an alternate.

Ed agrees with Commissioner Reisch, there should be a reduction in fees. Been fighting for 6 years.

Commissioner Reisch-as a citizen don't want municipality to sell water rights. Told president of Concordia of the rumor.

Commissioner Borsuk-did it sound like it would formed by next tri-district. Commissioner Berkowitz-they stated they were discussing it.

Chairman Mahler-maybe send letter to board of 1 & 3 to see where the board stands on forming a hydrant reduction committee asap to reduce the cost of hydrant fees.

8:10pm Dave Lesser arrived

Chairman Mahler-firefighter Barta gave new battery for phone to Chairman Mahler. maybe be eligible for upgrade to phones or replacement battery. Commissioner Borsuk-if eligible, get new phone. Chairman Mahler-asked les to see what comm. Are eligible for.

Commissioner Borsuk-worked on getting quotes for concrete pads-2 close in price. Remove existing, replace based on spec from CMX for new station.

More knowledge of company 18627.00 alpha contracting

Other company, don't have

Don't have ...license, but willing to get it

Motion to alpha contracting, pending public works ...Commissioner Borsuk, Commissioner Berkowitz second
Roll call

Letter from Chief Carbin to chairman Mahler.
Recap of meeting with Mr. Silverman, retired with NYPD dispatch.
Areas of opportunities, thus why district is looking at.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Mahler - a review made by Sam Doria, aid.
PrafcO, low bidder, seems to have everything except the request for projects he worked on. Based on findings, he doesn't seem to have solar experience
List of experience and reference and must have solar

Lowest bidders:
PrafcO
Sun electronics
Geogenics

Waiting for a report on that issue. It will determine if we can accept the bid. Brian Moore and Attorney will call

Brian Moore distributed EPIC management report. Foundation complete, storm..., looking to finish ... continue site work, sewer, and utility. Started plumbing and electric for underground. Plan to have floors poured by September.
Steel schedule for September
Maintaining schedule - end of April

Issue in process of being resolved. Fire hydrant in front of fire house. For service of equip JCPL has requested to relocate where they bring in service. Original disconnect will now be on the fire side. JCPL meeting on Monday.

Commissioner Berkowitz-find Brian chair ...

Chairman Mahler-change orders. Brian-can't say...hydrant and JCPL.

Les is doing a website update...every other week. Chairman Mahler-if letter to newspaper editors the website can be included.

Commissioner Reisch-report on insurance. Commissioner Reisch and Chief Carbin met with John Meeker on insurance-property damage; figure on new building and what it would cost. Want complete itemized district cost. Added 3 mill builders risk to the policy cost 3600, and a new vehicle. In reviewing decided to go to first responder. 20 companies have now joined. 8 more applied, should be in affect by end of September. premium should be lower as more join. Chief Carbin is one of the members of the 5 man board. Premiums may have minor increase, but we have more coverage.

Property and wrks comp is \$70,000.00 premium. 19% increase in health benefits - close to 40,000.00 increase. Need to take into acct for budget. figure in cost of new building insurance in may.

Need approval to give first responder, Commissioner Borsuk, Commissioner Reisch.
Roll call

Chairman Mahler-thank for time and effort in getting rates

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Silverman had a question for Commissioner Borsuk-had 73 incidents. Asked if work is tracked (how long it takes to complete the fire)

One of his main concerns is response times. Spoke to Chief Carbin, capt lebrun and Lt volkman.

Car fire in Concordia - dist 2 goes; greenbrier-dist 3 goes; should be fire districts, should be response times. Closest fire dept goes to the fire. If one co takes 5 min, another 1 min- both in station. 1 min response should go. Chief Carbin agrees. Wanted to know how commissioners feel.

Chairman Mahler-fire districts were created by referendum. We don't have our own dispatch system. What is trying to be done as a fire district, train dispatchers.

Many- most important thing in firefighter is response time. regardless of suburb/city. Not only have further fire dist, there is poor dispatch, makes it even longer response.

Chief Carbin/captain agree with him.

Commissioner borsuk-explained the root of problem no dedicated dispatchers. Districts are the district - work collaborative and independently. Dispatch still has challenges.

If the dispatch changes, it may take them longer to figure out, delaying dispatch time.
Contact Chief kravic of police dept. he will volunteer to help dispatch.

Jason ahs been in twp many years. Structure fire - everyone is going.

Many-you have to protect as much as you can against the variables,things happen. What if car fire is next to tree, next to house. The faster response time.

Afraid of loss of life, unfortunately there are variables - dispatch and radio system(pd- digital and fire dept is analog)

Suggest contacting police chief. Appreciate coming to board, reach out to police to help the twp. Commissioner Reisch-read letter from Chief Carbin regarding tri-district on rectifying problem. Firefighter barta can give letter of chief of police. Commissioner Berkowitz-would like a copy of letter to wayne Hamilton. Deal with this problem every year. Commissioner Borsuk-will talk to manny If he likes. Everyone in fire service agrees. Manny-lot of stuff done if people get together and put political pressure. In Middlesex county, can't go to politicians, need to go to commissioners. Realized need to approach differently.

Firefighter barta-need more facts; don't have access to pull statistics to get good figures, ours are estimates. Need technology, smart dispatch cad system, we don't have that. Time is money, how fast do you want to go.

Commissioner Reisch- had meetings with several mtgs with wayne Hamilton. Wayne thinks the fire dept of 3 districts are overstaffed. Oct 27 at 7:30 pm - Irwin nalite, presient town council, jerry tambura and bus adm way Hamilton. Chairman Mahler-send the letter to chief of police

9:10pm-Jason left

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Mahler announced the need to hold an executive session. At 9:12

ADJOURN

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion to adjourn.

UPON MOTION MADE by Maurice Mahler and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, 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