

TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
Board of Fire Commissioners
Fire District No. 2
Minutes of the Agenda and Regular Meetings
Wednesday, November 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, police 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 and Edward Mitnowsky. Lawrence Reisch was not present.

ALSO PRESENT: Board Attorney Richard J. Shaklee, Esquire, and Val Cier, Recording Secretary. There were no career firefighters present. There were two volunteer/support firefighters present: Jeff Dunham and Mark Davis. There were two 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, Home News and Star Ledger for public vote, and posted on the bulletin board of the Office of the Township Clerk, and five other locations for public vote.

PUBLIC VOTE

Chairman Mahler opened the meeting to the public to vote on putting \$60, 000 in capital appropriations portion of the 2014 Fire district budget for the purchase of a utility vehicle, radios, and conversion.

Public cast ballots, to be counted after the agenda meeting.

AGENDA MEETING

Chairman Mahler asked the board to review the minutes. Commissioners Borsuk had corrections to page 3.

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

Chairman Mahler asked if there was any correspondence. Commissioner Berkowitz had no correspondence

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 Mitnowsky

REGULAR MEETING

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

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 Edward Mitnowsky. Lawrence Reisch was not present.

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

There were two volunteer/support firefighters present: Jeff Dunham and Mark Davis. There were two 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, Home News and Star Ledger for public vote, and posted on the bulletin board of the Office of the Township Clerk, and five other locations for public vote.

PUBLIC VOTE

Chairman Mahler reported the public vote approved putting \$60, 000 in capital appropriations portion of the 2014 Fire district budget for the purchase of a utility vehicle, radios, and conversion. Seven yes votes and zero no votes.

MINUTES

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion on the Minutes.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Ed Mitnowsky, a motion was adopted to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2013 agenda and regular meetings, as amended.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz

Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky

CLAIMS AGAINST THE BOARD

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

Commissioner Berkowitz read the report:

General Operating Claims Total	\$219,216.02
Capital Projects Claims	\$ 0.00
Net Payroll Claims Total	\$ 83,482.18
Total Claims Against the Board	\$302,698.20
Period ending November 13, 2013	

UPON MOTION MADE by Maurice Mahler and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, claims against the Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 were approved in the amount of \$302,698.20.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz

Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chairman Mahler asked for the treasurer's report.

Commissioner Berkowitz reported the following as of November 13, 2013

Hudson City Savings Bank:

Undesignated Funds	\$763,322.11
Designated Funds	\$228,789.33
Total Balance	\$992,111.44

ANNUAL AUDIT

Commissioner Berkowitz read the resolution certifying audit report review for 2012.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, to pass the resolution certifying the audit report review for 2012.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz

Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Mahler reported there was no correspondence.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU REPORT

Chairman Mahler asked for the Fire Prevention Report.

Commissioner Borsuk reported on behalf of Chief Carbin the following:

- Increase in smoke detector tests
- Reviewed Incident run log calls -more carbon monoxide calls, some Mutual aid calls
- Few apparatus repairs pending

APPLEGARTH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Chairman Mahler asked if the Volunteers had any reports.

Mr. Davis reported that the volunteer organization will no longer have a Fire Police organization and the equipment has been returned to the Chief. They wanted to be a separate entity from the fire service, but that is not how it was planned.

MEETING OPEN TO THE BOARD

Chairman Mahler mentioned the recent information that came out in the news regarding a recent court case. District 1 will need to raise their budget, based on the outcome of a recent court case ruling.

The township gave the fire districts four years to come up with a solution to the consolidation concerns. First course of action was to hire a township Fire Chief. District 3 did not attend meetings and later the chairman resigned. The new Chairman of District 3, Les Barta, has been involved now. Previously District 2, came up with township Chief requirements, which had previously been agreed to by District 1 and District 3. Les Barta had come up with different Chief requirements and sent that to the board. Mr. Dunham asked if District 1 agreed with original Chief requirement. Chairman Mahler stated they did agree and put money aside for the township chief position.

Commissioner Borsuk reviewed the budget worksheet that was completed with the board accountant and Commissioner Berkowitz.

2013 Tax rate: 25.5 was approved last year, final was 25.6.

2014 Tax rate: 25.7 , the plan is to still be under 26 after the ratables are received in January.

Chairman Mahler feels the township should pay hydrant fees.

Commissioner Borsuk mentioned various changes in the budget:

- Insurance went from \$90k to \$96k
- Career pay went up a little, with health insurance, etc.
- Kept money in budget for combined Chief, if that happens
- Equipment operations with a slight increase
- Reduced public relations
- Township network communications will increase due to digital needs
- Surplus of \$190k in 2013, \$100k going into 2014, \$60k to fund new utility truck
- Will keep tax rate level to last year

The Board is in agreement with the budget worksheet as discussed.

Chairman Mahler stated if the volunteers need help with a grant, they can look to invest in a grant writer.

Jason Martin stated \$2500-\$3000 may be needed for solar maintenance. Commissioner Berkowitz stated the current budget can cover that amount.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Mahler opened the meeting to the public. The public had no questions.

ADJOURN

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion to adjourn.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, the meeting was adjourned.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk

Agenda/Regular Meeting
November 13, 2013

Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky

ED MITNOWSKY
Board Secretary
MAURICE MAHLER
Chairman

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