

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

Vice Chairman Borsuk called the meeting to order with a Salute to the Flag at 7:05 pm. Vice Chairman Borsuk 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, Edward Mitnowsky and Lawrence Reisch. Maurice Mahler was not present.

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

There were two volunteer/support firefighters present: Ben Vivona and Tish O'Connor.

There was one member of the public present: Charles Veresca.

Vice Chairman Borsuk 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

Vice Chairman Borsuk stated the introduction of the budget will be read at the regular meeting. The board was asked to review the minutes.

Commissioners Berkowitz and Attorney Shaklee had grammatical corrections to pages one and two of the minutes.

Vice Chairman Borsuk asked if there was any correspondence. Commissioner Berkowitz read a follow up letter sent to the Middlesex Board of Elections requesting separate voting lists.

Vice Chairman Borsuk stated there was no need for a closed session tonight.

UPON MOTION MADE by Lawrence Reisch and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, the agenda meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz

Aye Borsuk

Aye Mitnowsky

Aye Reisch

REGULAR MEETING

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

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

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

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INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET

Commissioner Berkowitz read the 2013 Fire District #2 Budget Resolution for \$3,532,375.00 with \$3,351,375.00 to be raised by taxation.

UPON MOTION MADE by Martin Borsuk and seconded by Edward Mitnowsky, a motion was adopted to approve the 2012 budget in the amount of \$3,532,375.00.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz

Aye Borsuk

Aye Mitnowsky

Aye Reisch

Board Attorney Shaklee read the resolution for the 2011 Annual Audit.

UPON MOTION MADE by Lawrence Reisch and seconded by Edward Mitnowsky, a motion was adopted to approve the 2011 Annual Audit.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz

Aye Borsuk

Aye Mitnowsky

Aye Reisch

MINUTES

Vice Chairman Borsuk asked for a motion on the Minutes.

UPON MOTION MADE by Lawrence Reisch and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, a motion was adopted to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2012 agenda and regular meetings, as amended.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz

Aye Borsuk

Aye Mitnowsky

Aye Reisch

CLAIMS AGAINST THE BOARD

Vice Chairman Borsuk asked the board to review the claims against the board.

Commissioner Reisch read the report:

General Operating Claims Total	\$118,772.70
Capital Project Claims Total	\$0.00
Net Payroll Claims Total	\$ 85,699.64
Total Claims Against the Board	\$204,472.34

November 15, 2012 - December 12, 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 \$204,472.34.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vice Chairman Borsuk asked for the treasurer's report.

Commissioner Reisch reported the following as of December 12, 2012

Hudson City Savings Bank:

Unrestricted Funds	\$1,210,257.47
Restricted Funds	\$246,080.15
Capital Projects	\$22,634.81
Cash on Hand	\$170.00
Total Balance	\$1,479,142.43

Commissioner Mitnowsky questioned why the Applegarth fuel oil was close to \$2000.00 in November. It was filled 3 times in November. It could be due to the hurricane when the heater ran while people were in the firehouse. The generator at the new firehouse ran for 11 days and the bill was \$4300 for the propane.

Vice Chairman Borsuk asked about building report. Chief Carbin stated the crack in wall and floor still have not been fixed. Chief Carbin will follow up with Board Attorney Shaklee on the next course of action.

CORRESPONDENCE

Vice Chairman Borsuk asked for the correspondence to be read. Commissioner Berkowitz had read the correspondence during the agenda meeting.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU REPORT

Vice Chairman Borsuk asked for the Fire Prevention Report.

Chief Carbin reported the following:

- 40 smoke detector tests above last year for smoke detector tests
- 130 calls this month due to hurricane Sandy
- 152 calls from 10/26 to 11/18

- Lettering complete on fire prevention vehicle
- Plaque is in final state for the tower
- \$30,000 submitted to FEMA - overtime, apparatus usage and generator usage for both buildings (\$14,000)

Commissioner Berkowitz asked Chief Carbin if he had any recommendations to preparation if a hurricane was to occur again. Chief Carbin stated they were prepared. OEM meeting had taken place a week ahead of time. Chief was at OEM 36 hours, from Monday morning to Tuesday evening. He had firefighter shifts come in early. When the generator went down at OEM, he ran 11 calls from his command vehicle and cell phone. Chief Carbin's suggestion was for residents to be more prepared for the worst case scenario of having no power for an extended period of time. Residents need to purchase spare batteries, bottled water, and communities should purchase generators for their clubhouses.

Commissioner Reisch reported that Concordia approved a generator be purchased to run on natural gas. Commissioner Berkowitz stated the Culture Center generator was blown due to the strain on it. Chief Carbin stated the Culture Center needs to get a larger generator.

Commissioner Reisch asked if the firehouse was open as shelter. Chief Carbin stated the school was open for shelter. Firehouse is not allowed to be shelter. It was open to charge phones and provide nebulizer treatment. Applegarth firehouse offered water from their outside hose for those residents with wells.

Commissioner Borsuk asked if there had been any complaints from residents. Chief Carbin did not hear of any complaints, but did hear compliments for their assistance.

Vice Chairman Borsuk stated when power came on, there was 21 calls in 4 hours. Alarms related due to power coming back on. When the department did have to run on the East Brunswick frequency, we didn't have any reception. That was only deficiency in the entire event of the hurricane.

Chief Carbin stated all the communities had warning and given suggestions 1 week prior to the hurricane. They were told to move people residents from low lying areas and stock up on supplies.

Commissioner Reisch asked if the township will be prepared for storm next week. Chief Carbin stated now that we know about it, there will be an OEM meeting. Commissioner Reisch asked if power is lost, what can be done. Chief Carbin stated the high school is open as a shelter, then the municipal building would be open.

APPLEGARTH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Ben Vivona reported on behalf of Applegarth that as of January 1, 2013:

- Jeff Dunham will be President
- Jeff Levy will be Vice President

MEETING OPEN TO THE BOARD

District 3 approached this board to have Chief Carbin fill in as an Interim Acting Chief for District 3. The criteria is ambiguous. Chief Carbin and the board are not interested in pursuing the arrangement. The entire board is in agreement.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Vice Chairman Borsuk opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. Vivona said Clearbrook has generator, and Concordia has one, but how do you turn people away once you have filled the capacity of the building. Chief Carbin would review the parameters and the occupancy in the building. If it's a state of emergency, he would make sure none of the residents are in jeopardy and safe for that time frame. Chief Carbin suggests posting people there to monitor the situation, and know each person who is in the shelter. At shelters, it's important to keep track of everyone, who is there, how many, when you leave. That is something management has to work out.

Mr. Vivona's concern is about turning people away when you meet the occupancy. Commissioner Reisch stated there are 3000 people in Concordia. 50% of the community gone now, during this time of year. That leaves 1500 people and many will go to relatives. 600 people can fit in the Regency, 250 in the party room. The board had the same concerns and now Concordia is getting the largest generator.

Mr. Vivona questioned if Concordia sent flyers stating residents can't have their own generators. The rumor is that the police are saying houses are too close to get a generator. Chief Carbin stated the police really have no reason/function of telling residents if they are allowed to have a generation. Generators would have to be 5 feet from a window.

Mrs. O'Connor mentioned that she personally had a fuel delivery. It was \$4.29/gallon for 550 gallons to heat her house. The Firehouse pays \$3.38/gallon for heating oil. Just to understand cost and capacity based on earlier remarks.

CLOSED SESSION

Vice Chairman Borsuk stated there was no need for a closed session.

ADJOURN

Vice Chairman Borsuk 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 Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

MARTIN BERKOWITZ
Board Secretary
GLENN BORUSK
Vice Chairman

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