

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FIRE DISTRICT No. 1
Bridgewater Township
PO Box 109, MARTINSVILLE, N. J. 08836**

Martinsville Station # 1
Martinsville, NJ
Dec 10, 2019

Meeting Minutes of the December 10, 2019 BOFC District #1 Meeting

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Kalafsky at 8:03 pm. Present: Mr. Rose, Mr. Rosenberg, Mr. Kalafsky, Mrs. Zampella, Mr. Cowley. Chief Snook, Deputy Chief Fernandes also present. Mr. Kalafsky motioned and Mr. Cowley seconded that we approve the minutes that were distributed electronically from the November meeting. Minutes approved.

Mr. Rose presented the Treasurer's report. Mr. Cowley motioned and Mrs. Zampella seconded that the Treasurer's report be approved as read. Report approved. Mr. Rose presented the bills being paid this month. Mr. Cowley motioned and Mrs. Zampella seconded that the bills be approved as read. Bills approved.

Meeting opened to public at 8:06. Public section closed at 8:08

Correspondence: Mrs. Zampella reported that we received the our copy of VFIS Accident and Sickness policy along with a summary of coverage. Will scan and have available electronically if anyone wants a copy. Received the rates from Courier News for public notice publication, 43 cents per line.

Chief's Report Dec report not received but Chief advised he has hard copy in his office. We will get electronic copies and can approve at January meeting.

Old Business:

Martinsville Rescue Squad: Deputy Chief Nowakowski reported November usage. Rig 3 was used for 8 Martinsville Calls and 5 out of district calls. Mr. Rose asked about status of replacement rig. Lou advised they are looking at a Sprinter Rig that is cost efficient but much smaller and might be tough for CPR so squad would have to use that rig when CPR not needed. Discussion about Green Knoll Squad going to billing for service. Mrs. Zampella advised that about 60% of the surrounding squads are billing for services. Green Knoll is having one of their rigs evaluated for approval for billing but not there yet. Strict guidelines to be approved.

LOSAP: No report

Insurance: No report.

Membership and Personnel: No report

Bridgewater Joint Board: Mr. Rose reported that the next meeting will be next year.

Trucks out of the District: No requests

New Development: We discussed the Frontier Road development. That are is covered by Findern.

Vehicle Training Ongoing

BiLaws and Articles: Ongoing. Mr. Rosenberg advised he and Mr. Braslow got copies of a few other districts' bilaws, Plainsboro, Cape May and Beverly. They are on target for recommendations to be distributed to the board during 1st quarter 2020. Mr. Kalafsky asked if those districts are similar in size to our area. Mr. Rosenberg advised that they are looking at general bilaws and situations that could apply to any district.

Vehicle Maintenance: Chief Snook reported the brush truck is in final stages and should be picked up by end of the week. The Chief advised the tablets will be installed as soon as the mounts get in. The connectivity rate will go down when we add more units.

Budget – Mr. Rose presented the budget that does not include the requested purchase of a new extrication tool. He pointed out that since the Board provided over \$300,000 representative of the extrication vehicle, there is not a need for the tool at this time. Our attorney, Mr. Braslow advised that this type of purchase needs to go into the capital budget and get voted on by the taxpayers. Mr. Rose advised we kept the budget under our cap.

Total assessed value of the district is \$2,125,877,600.00. The tax rate per hundred is 2.7 cents. Our annual proposed budget Revenues include \$650,508.00 includes the amount to be raised by taxation \$579,069.00 with total appropriations of \$650,508.00

Mr. Rose motioned and Mr. Cowley seconded that the budget be approved as presented.

Mrs. Zampella took a role call vote and the budget was approved unanimously.

The board had a discussion about the extrication equipment and the need for equipment. Mr. Cowley suggested that the equipment on the extrication vehicle is 15 years old and we need to look at the need for replacement. Mr. Rose advised the equipment has been updated over the years with the maintenance program. He does not see the purpose of another piece of extrication equipment. Mr. Kalafsky suggested that the equipment is an operational issue and the Chief should look into it in the future.

Mr. Rose motioned and Mr. Cowley seconded that we approve a bill for \$3,600.00 from Mr. Jinks for budget preparation. Board approved.

New Business:

Mr. Rose attended the League of Municipalities convention and while at the unclaimed properties booth, he discovered Gannett newspapers turned in \$481.08 owed to the board. He has paperwork to claim the money. Mrs. Zampella presented a resolution authorizing Bill Rose to act on behalf of the Fire District to obtain funds from an unclaimed fund account. Mr. Rosenberg motioned and Mrs. Zampella seconded that we approve the resolution. Board unanimously approved the resolution.

Incentive Plan- Mr. Rose advised he will abstain from voting for the plan as he is a recipient of the plan. His suggestion is that we stick to the current plan in place with the cap. It is meant to be an incentive plan for firemen who respond to more fire calls. Chief requested consideration for a fireman who took a leave of absence for schooling because he responded for more calls during the storm than many members. The board discussed several other cases that could be exceptions that would make it difficult to determine what qualifies. Although the board appreciates the service of the fireman, we need to stay with the current plan. Mr. Rosenberg asked the Chief what changes he would make to the plan. The chief suggested we rewrite the resolution to make it clear with no ambiguity. Mr. Rosenberg motioned that we accept the current plan \$10,600 cap with the understanding that we will revisit this 1st quarter of next year and make any changes for the following year. Mr. Cowley offered to review with the Chief and report to the board. Role Call, Mr. Rose and Mr. Kalafsky abstained. Mr. Rosenberg, Mrs. Zampella and Mr. Cowley voted yes.

Mr. Rose advised he attended the division of firefighter safety meeting while at the convention. They are adding another 3 hours to the Firefighter Onecourse for the purpose of talking about PTSD. Only mandated for Firefighter one, not for current firemen. Someone also suggested they take the boilerplate Firefighter classes and move them online so that they can have more hands on involvement at the Academy.

With no other new business; a motion to adjourn the December 10, 2019 meeting was made by and seconded by Mr. Rosenberg. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.