

August 13, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS of the FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 was held on the above date at 18:30 with Commissioner Bauer presiding. We saluted the flag, the "Sunshine Statement" was read, and roll call was taken.

ROLL CALL: Present – S. Arnold, C. Bauer, W. Rzomp, C. Sklodowski
Absent – A. Miller

Minutes of the previous meetings, July 9 and July 23, 2012

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold, seconded by Commissioner Rzomp to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2012 and the July 23, 2012 meetings as printed and distributed. Motion carried.

AUDITORS REPORT: (Rob Inverso)

1. None

SOLICITOR: Robert Gaskill

1. Nothing for open session.

BATTALION CHIEF/BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT: Kevin Mullen submitted report via email.

1. B/C Mullen reported that we received \$8,300.00 for reimbursement.

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION: Marc Stranko submitted report via email.

EMS REPORT: Andrew Popso submitted report via email.

1. B/C Popso reported that his report is in the new format following Virtua's labeling, and he has added average response times for our units.
2. There was a large influx for mutual aid last month and they are actively working on that.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Insurance: Carolyn Taylor reported:

1. B/C Mullen returned back to work on July 31, 2012 from medical leave.

Purchases:

1. B/C Mullen reported he was unable to get the 3-month list of purchases done before the meeting. He will print the list out before the next meeting and send it out to the Board. The list is for informational purposes only, and not part of the approval

process.

Policy:

1. None.

Training: Marc Stranko submitted his report via email.

1. Commissioner Arnold inquired about the large bill from the training center for the Class B burn building. B/C Mullen indicated that QuickBooks lumps all of the invoices together and that bill is for multiple training invoices.
2. Marc Stranko reported that the EMT course fees at BC ESTC have gone up to \$1,200.00 plus \$200.00 for the text. Delran EMS is offering the course for \$870.00. B/C Taylor explained the increase in fees everywhere is due to the new course curriculum and the hours have doubled.

Truck/Equipment/Building: No report, Brian Richardson is on medical leave.

1. None.

Fire Company Liaison: Commissioner Arnold reported:

1. Chief Scully reported they are working on getting the parts for 4016.
2. Todd Estelow has ordered a new recorder for the Company Secretary for the meeting minutes.

Information Technology Report: Todd Estelow submitted report via email.

1. Commissioner Bauer inquired about the changeover on our T1 line to the new company. Todd Estelow reported he received an email from Comcast and install will be on August 16th, and the cutover will be on August 23, 2012. The savings going from Level 3 to Comcast is \$1,965.00 per year, and from Verizon to Level 3 was another \$6,000.00 for a total savings of about \$8,000.00 per year.

Radio:

1. Commissioner Rzomp inquired where we stand with the FCC update on our older low band radios. Chief Scully reported we will be moving over to the narrow band in the September area. There is no license that we have to file for. Everyone has to be narrow banded by 2013.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

1. Mike Tomaszewski as an active member.
A motion was made by Commissioner Rzomp and seconded by Commissioner Arnold for the application to take its usual course. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Commissioner Bauer received a letter of resignation from Commissioner Arnold Miller, effective immediately, and read it aloud. The open position will be posted in the Register News and the County Times, and filled until the next election. It will be posted on our web site, and also at the Municipal building. Applicants will need to submit a letter of interest by August 31, 2012, and are required to be a Florence Township resident and a registered voter. At the next election in February, the applicant(s) must petition for the unexpired term.
2. Commissioner Arnold received a letter from DM Medical Billings and read the letter aloud. The Florence Fire District wishes to execute the extension clause in the current contract with DM Medical for our third party billing. DM Medical will honor our current contract and show it valid for the next 12 month period.
3. Commissioner Arnold was forwarded a letter from Chief Scully from the Endeavor Emergency Squad thanking us for providing an Ambulance for covering their station on July 28, 2012.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Rzomp to approve to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT:

1. Commissioner Sklodowski reported he spoke with B/C Mullen on Thursday and he is still working on the Treasury report for the second half of the year. They will meet tomorrow or Wednesday to go over everything.
A motion was made by Commissioner Rzomp, seconded by Commissioner Sklodowski to approve the treasurer's report as printed and distributed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 2008 AFG Grant Modification – Approve request for up to 3 sets of Turnout Coats and Bunker Pants. B/C Mullen reported he received a call from FEMA. We had excess funds after purchasing the hose and originally were told we couldn't purchase anything but hose with it. Now we may be able to use the excess to purchase turnout gear. Typically, this purchase would come out of our operating budget.
A motion was made by Commissioner Rzomp and seconded by Commissioner Arnold to approve B/C Mullen to investigate and to see if we can get the money for the 3 sets of turnout gear. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Contract with MEDPRO for annual service agreement - \$1385.00. B/C Mullen reported MEDPRO comes out twice a year and does annual service on our stretchers and stair chairs.
A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold, seconded by Commissioner Sklodowski to renew the annual service contract with MEDPRO. Motion carried.
2. Approval for EMS supply order not to exceed \$3000.00 (Exceeds B/C Mullen's \$1,000.00 limit) – B/C Mullen reported the EMS officers are purchasing six months worth of supplies in bulk quantities for a cost savings.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Rzomp to approve the purchase of EMS supplies not to exceed \$3,000.00. Motion carried.

3. Approve Resolution 2012-16 FIRST RESPONDER JOINT INSURANCE FUND RESOLUTION FOR RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP (Roll call vote) – B/C Mullen reported our insurance is currently through a JIF. Members/Clients are assessed every November and you don't know what your portion is going to be. The insurance agent gave an estimate of 7-8 percent year over year. By nature of what we do, we are considered in worker's comp in a high risk pool, so our insurance rates tend to be high to begin with. The JIF is made up entirely by fire districts. The more districts that join, in theory, the rates will go down. We are paying for insurance right now \$9-11,000,00 less today than we were in 2008 before going into the JIF. We still get considerable savings by being in the JIF but we won't have a hard number until the November assessment. B/C Mullen stated he could have a number from another outside agency for the workshop meeting in August. Because of our unfortunate events this year, we would have gotten hit with a substantial increase this year if we were with a "for profit" type of insurance, if we could get insurance at all. Commissioner Bauer inquired if we could get involved with the municipal JIF. B/C Mullen reported no. We had tried several times previously and fire departments couldn't get into JIF's primarily because of worker's comp. That's why this JIF was created and it's been in existence for about 5-7 years now.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold, and seconded by Commissioner Rzomp to table this Resolution until the workshop so that we have a better understanding of it. Motion carried.

4. Discuss skateboarding on District property – B/C Mullen reported we have several kids that are skateboarding on the property and has contacted the township to find out what they would do. The Board could pass a resolution forbidding same, if you choose to, and post signage up. Then there is a way of enforcing it. A discussion ensued that resulted in handling each case on an individual basis.
5. Commissioner Rzomp inquired what happened to our basketball nets. Chief Scully said they got moved into the enclosure because according to our insurance, you can't play any ground ball sports. B/C Mullen reported if you get hurt playing basketball, you will not be covered under worker's comp. The nets will stay where they are for now and B/C Mullen will look into it.
6. Excess turn-out gear – B/C Mullen reported we have excess turnout gear upstairs and he would like to dispose of it because it has exceeded its 10-year life and no longer meets NFPA requirements. Commissioner Rzomp inquired if we donate it, would we be held liable because it has exceeded its 10-year life. B/C Mullen asked what if we sell it "As Is" on govdeals so that whoever buys it knows that it is "As Is". B/C Taylor commented that he and Chief Scully attended the PEOSH update in June, and based upon PEOSH and in the spirit of that standard, the manufacturers manufacture the gear to the NFPA standard which states a 10-year service life. After that 10-year service life it no longer meets the standard. It is their recommendation that the gear be destroyed and disposed of so there is no chance of anyone ever wearing that gear during firefighting operations. In our building, we have "EMS Only" members that had retired gear, and on previous inspections PEOSHA has asked "What if someone else takes it?" B/C Taylor's opinion that at \$20-\$50 per coat, we are gambling with pennies when it comes to members' safety, be it our members or whoever we sell it to. They intend to keep some of it as a training use as we had learned a very valuable lesson on May 31st about removing a firefighter from his turnout gear. Commissioner

Bauer stated that whatever we do with it, it must all be accounted for – where it went, and how it went. Commissioner Arnold inquired how it would be destroyed. B/C Taylor stated a manufacturer representative recommends that it be cut up the back and thrown in a dumpster. Acting FM Stranko asked if the police could use any of it during investigations to help them stay clean. Chief Scully indicated there is something in place for that already.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Sklodowski that the three chiefs get together and come up with a solution on getting rid of the gear and report back to the Commission. Motion carried.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold, and seconded by Commissioner Sklodowski to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried.

Mr. Mike Stranko, 615 East Third Street, Florence, NJ: inquired with the amount that we are paying for EMT training, is there any state funding available for that? At one time there used to be. Commissioner Arnold reported not for us, we are a fire district. B/C Taylor also added that it is the fact that we bill for services, not that we are volunteer or paid. They refund eligible organizations that meet the criteria set by the First Aid Council which means they do not bill for service. There are only 5 agencies left in the county that are still eligible for that fund, and still only pays \$550.00 of that new tuition.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rzomp, and seconded by Commissioner Sklodowski to close the public portion of the meeting. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Rzomp to go into the closed session portion of the meeting. Motion carried.

- EMS Staffing
- Fire Staffing
- Contract with Local 3091

A motion was made by Commissioner Sklodowski and seconded by Commissioner Rzomp to go into back into regular session. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE BOARD:

1. None

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Commissioner Sklodowski seconded by Commissioner Arnold to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Taylor