

September 10, 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, C. Sklodowski  
**Absent** – W. Rzomp

Minutes of the previous meeting, August 13, 2012

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold, seconded by Commissioner Sklodowski to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2012 meeting as printed and distributed. Motion carried.

**AUDITORS REPORT: (Rob Inverso)**

1. None

**SOLICITOR: Robert Gaskill**

1. Solicitor Gaskill reported the only thing he has is the proposed SOP for hiring EMTs which will be covered under new business.

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

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

**CHIEF REPORT:** Keith Scully submitted his report.

**EMS REPORT:** Andrew Popso submitted report via email.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***Insurance:***

1. B/C Mullen spoke with insurance agent and he is working on getting quotes.

***Purchases:***

1. B/C Mullen sent list via email.

***Policy:***

1. SOP for Hiring Per Diem EMTs will be discussed under new business.

**Training:** Marc Stranko submitted his report via email.

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

1. None.

**Fire Company Liaison:** Commissioner Arnold reported:

1. They discussed at the Company meeting about the skate boarders. The kids have been told and the situation will be monitored. Commissioner Bauer inquired if we would be required to post signs of what they can and can't do for insurance liabilities. Solicitor Gaskill said they would have to ask the insurance company. If you specifically allow skateboarding, you have to find out if that type of activity is covered.
2. The Commissioners met with the Line Officers and the head Trustee to discuss the medics relocating to our building. Everybody is on the same page and agrees it is a plus for the township and the department. Solicitor Gaskill reviewed their proposed contract and is in agreement with 98% of it. His only problem with it is to arrange arbitration if there is a problem. Arbitration used to be fast and cheap, now it slow and more expensive than litigation. There is such a minute chance we would have to do it because there is a 90 day out clause – for no reason at all, either party can give 90 days written notice, the contract is over, and they're out. Any litigation would be over the contract itself.

**Information Technology Report:** Todd Estelow submitted report via email.

1. Commissioner Bauer inquired if the changeover of our T1 line took place. Todd Estelow reported it was scheduled for last week, but we needed to have a crossover cable, which is made today. He is trying to get it rescheduled for this week. 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. None

#### **APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:**

1. Robert Reillo, III - Explorer.  
A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Sklodowski for the application to take its usual course. Motion carried.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. We received a thank you note from the Deer Park Fire Company in Cherry Hill.
2. We received the minutes of the quarterly meeting of the NJ State Association of Fire Districts.
3. We received the signed copy of the Virtua Transport Agreement back from them.
4. We received three letters of interest for Fire Commissioner:
  - Barbara Mayer

- Michael Stranko
- Robert Reillo, Sr.

## **PRESENTATION OF BILLS**

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

## **TREASURERS REPORT:**

1. Commissioner Sklodowski reported he has met with B/C Mullen several times since the last meeting and our budget is improving a little.  
A motion was made by Commissioner Sklodowski, seconded by Commissioner Arnold to approve the treasurer's report as printed and distributed. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. 2008 AFG Grant Modification – B/C Mullen reported he has submitted a grant amendment for 3 sets of PPE. He is still waiting for FEMA to reply.
2. B/C Mullen reported we have not heard anything on our new grant, and they should be awarded sometime this month.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Virtua Paramedics use of the building:** Commissioner Arnold reported they met with the company. It seems to be a “win/win” situation. B/C Mullen reported Virtua has different agreements with different buildings, and all agreements should be looked into and finalized before moving on this. A short discussion ensued.  
A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Sklodowski to authorize B/C Mullen to further inquire with Virtua to move forward and report back at the workshop meeting. Motion carried.
2. **Policy 221 REQUIREMENTS FOR PER DIEM EMTs:**  
Solicitor Gaskill reported he drafted this policy which is simple and straight forward. B/C Mullen forwarded a copy to the Company President who dispersed as necessary for more input from the fire company, and he received no feedback. Commissioner Arnold stated the policy basically states that non-member EMT's that are hired here do not have the same rights and privileges as an active member of the department. They may, however, join the company as an active member if they wish to do so.  
A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Sklodowski to approve the first reading of Policy 221 Requirements for Per Diem EMT's. Roll call vote: Commissioner Arnold-Yes; Commissioner Bauer-Yes; Commissioner Sklodowski-Yes. Motion carried 3/0.
3. **Electric/Lighting work in the firehouse** – Commissioner Arnold reported they want B/C Mullen and Todd Estelow to get quotes to reduce the lighting in the garage to a minimum at night, and quotes to replace all of the light switches except for certain rooms to timer switches (they have a list of which rooms). They would also like to look into something (at a later time) for the environmental controls. B/C Mullen will check with Brian who had started working on this prior to May 31<sup>st</sup>. The commissioners would like to have this project completed before the end of the year so

that next year they can compare to this year to see how much money they are actually saving.

### **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

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

1. C. Lester Smith spoke about the JIF Insurance Policy stating that the District had changed to the JIF insurance to save money, and that \$10,000.00 was saved the first year alone. It is an insurance fund for emergency responders, and they treat you like that, not like the general public. Even after a year like this one, the JIF can't drop you, and if you were in the private sector, you would probably get dropped. He recommends that we stay with the JIF. Commissioner Bauer stated we don't know the numbers and we've heard there is a possibility that we can get a big bump. The meeting is to see how good or bad we're going to get bumped. Commissioner Arnold thanked Mr. Smith for coming because he wanted to learn more about the JIF and he did some research on it and thinks we are getting a good deal, especially with the year that we had. Solicitor Gaskill added nobody here thinks the JIF can be beaten dollar-wise and we are getting quotes for comparisons for the file. Mr. Smith said to be sure to compare "apples to apples" when you get the quotes.
2. Mike Stranko inquired about the insurance for the non-member EMT's that may be hired, and the paramedics that may move into our building. Solicitor Gaskill stated the Virtua Medics are covered under their own insurance and are only getting a space. The non-member EMT's are employees and will not affect our insurance. There is no requirement that an EMT that works here has to be a part of the fire company. Mr. Stranko also inquired if we have looked into motion detectors for our lights rather than timers. He stated they put them in at FedEx and they save a tremendous amount. Commissioner Arnold said we already have them in some rooms, but he personally has a problem with them because if you are working on one side of the room, and the motion detector is on the other side of the room, it just shuts off. Mr. Stranko said in their warehouses there are multiple motion detectors which you can do in the garage in 3 sections. Commissioner Arnold replied they would look at which works better when they get the price quotes.
3. Daniel Cunningham stated a few of the medics asked him to express some concerns that you may take into consideration when you work on the contract with Virtua. They haven't worked out of volunteer establishments before, only paid institutions. They are concerned with people with free roam of the building just coming in and out all day, especially with their meds and their vehicle. Will they have a way to access to the building if they want to go outside to have a cigarette and get back in?  
B/C Mullen stated all of that will be addressed through Virtua's management. Commissioner Bauer also stated they have talked to them and there will be security for their stuff.  
Mr. Cunningham said the medics biggest concern, especially with the volunteer trustees, is if they get a call while eating their breakfast and they're gone for the entire shift and don't come back for 12 hours, they can't clean up their mess until they come back. They don't want to run into problems because their food is left out and they are running calls. Commissioner Arnold stated if they have these concerns, they should take them to their management and address them.  
Commissioner Bauer added that he has attended some of their meetings and there are

a lot of things they are trying to iron out. But with things like that, his position and the position of the Board and the Chiefs feel their value and the benefits of this far outweigh everything. The Board will look out for every body however they can.

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

**CLOSED SESSION:**

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

- Contract with Local 3091
- Personnel – Open Fire Commissioner Position
- Disciplinary Actions – Update
- Personnel

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

**GOOD OF THE BOARD:**

1. Commissioner Sklodowski expressed his condolences on the passing of Commissioner Rzomp's mother and Past Chief Pete Rzomp's wife.
2. Commissioner Arnold thanked the EMS and fire crews who handled Betty Rzomp's call.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Taylor