

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, District #3, was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Commissioners Logan on August 20, 2007.

PRESENT – Commissioners Logan, Baylis, Eitel, Concato and Flora
Commissioner Baylis arrived at 8:15 p.m.

ABSENT - None

This meeting was duly advertised in accordance with the open business-meeting act of the State of New Jersey.

VOLUNTEER COMPANY REPORT – Discussion from President Carson that they are moving ahead with the expansion of the firehouse for the new truck and that they have a meeting with the architect with three different ideas for the expansion. They will get back to the Commissioners.

President Carson advised that the Exhaust System is down at the main building from the lightening strike and wondered when it would be repaired. Administrative Clerk advised that she knew nothing about it until tonight but that she would check into the repairs and see that it was done. In the meantime, the Commissioners advised leaving the bay doors open to air out the bays.

SECRETARIES REPORT – Minutes were unavailable for tonight's meeting. Administrative Clerk Brown to email minutes as soon as they are done.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Commissioner Flora reads the summary of the report. Motion to accept the summary as read made by Commissioner Eitel, seconded by Commissioner Logan. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Logan, Flora, Concato and Eitel. **NAY:** None.

Motion to accept the Resolution for the transfer of funds read by Commissioner Eitel, seconded by Commissioner Logan. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Logan, Flora, Concato and Eitel. **NAY:** None.

ATTORNEY JOSEPH YOUSOUF – Not in attendance at this meeting.

BUREAU FIRE SAFETY REPORT - A report has been given to the Commissioners for review, as well as a Fire Prevention package for the Commissioners review. A copy of report is attached.

CHIEF BYRNES REPORT - A report has been given to the Commissioners for review. A copy of report is attached.

CHIEF SMITH'S REPORT – A report has been given to the Commissioners for review. A copy of report is attached.

Assistant Chief Fatovic advised that entering the Reports has been much better. Only issue he had recently was an incorrect street name.

Assistant Chief Fatovic advised that the radio issues are a lot better than what they were.

HEALTH & FITNESS COMMITTEE -

OLD BUSINESS – Discussion regarding the opening of the bids on August 28, 2007. Commissioners advised that there will be two commissioners there for the opening. Administrative Clerk Brown to send out reminders to them.

Discussion regarding the Chain of Command. Commissioner Baylis advised that they had 30 days and it should go to vote. Assistant Chief Fatovic advised that the first time Chief Smith saw the SOG's was on Thursday. Between Ken being out sick, vacation, etc, they have not been able to get together. President Carson to discuss with the Chief and this item to be tabled one more month as neither Chief is here tonight.

Question raised as to the resolution for Chief Byrnes and that it designated him as Chief of the Career Staff only, not both departments. It was stressed that there is a need to have two separate departments with two separate chiefs. Chief Byrnes to reach out the Chief Smith prior to next Board meeting, not to come from 3rd and 4th persons. Assistant Chief Fatovic advises that Chief Smith has received no phone calls or emails all month from Chief Byrnes.

NEW BUSINESS – Discussion regarding the Dog Park and health regulations. Commissioners to have Chief Byrnes look into it and get a written plan. No approval at this time.

Commissioners advised that the Township Administrator is looking for a new letter replacing the old letter about the consolidation study. Commissioners to have Chief Byrnes look into this.

Chief Byrnes has requested a Forest Fire Sign to be placed at the end of our roadway. He will be sending a letter to the Township to get written permission before the forest fire will install the sign.

Discussion regarding the gas usage and the extra charges incurred by the Commissioners. Chief Byrnes and Administrative Clerk Brown are looking into fleet cards and other avenues for fueling the trucks and will keep the Board advised.

Discussion from Safety Officer Hussey regarding recent injuries to career staff and the lack of reporting it to him. Commissioner Logan advised that he would deliver the reports to him in the morning first thing.

Commissioner Concato advises that the contract negotiations with the fire company are going well. Discussion regarding the LOSAP program. They are in need of exact wording and then they will be ready to present the proposal to the Board.

Assistant Chief Fatovic questioned whether the SOG was passed for the District Vehicle and what was the decision. He thinks it was submitted in April/May. He has requested that it be resubmitted. Administrative Clerk Brown to look back into the minutes and locate it for him.

Assistant Chief Fatovic questioned where is his running boards. He requested that the metal one be ordered and not to replace the plastic one. Advised that he spoke with Ken and he had no problem with this but replacing with the metal ones meant replacing both sides. Administrative Clerk Brown to look into this matter.

Assistant Chief Fatovic is looking for his air card for his laptop that Chief Byrnes promised him. Administrative Clerk Brown to look into this matter.

President Carson looking for the Spare Lap Top Chief Byrnes promised him. Administrative Clerk Brown to look into this matter.

Discussion regarding the Budget meetings. Administrative Clerk Brown to send notice to papers for Budget Workshop for Capital items on Monday, September 10, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. and the entire Budget on Saturday, September 22, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Discussion with regard to the Whitesville issue. Meeting scheduled for next week to review all that was previously discussed.

Discussion regarding the amount of crews sent to any one call. It was mentioned that District 4 is not hiring because District 3 sends them 12 guys for each call so there is no need for them to hire.

Discussion regarding mutual aid and coverage through out the different districts.

Al Robbins questioned the ability of the Attorney to quote the Board to the papers and advised that wrong information was given to the Tri-town news in the August 9th edition. Board reassured him that Attorney Youssouf is our legal representation and therefore he is authorized to speak on the board's behalf. However, he has no control over the errors that the paper printed.

John Walters brought the Board up to date with the Mayor's efforts to consolidate the four fire districts into one. He applied to the State Grant program but has no money and has not been able to move forward. But the Mayor's goal is to have the Fire District under the Police Department like first aid.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: Meetings are suppose to start up soon. Commissioner Logan advises that it is to be made of two Board members, members of the volunteer and members of the career staff. One month the Volunteers will head the meeting and the next month the career staff will head the meetings. And it will continue to alternate like that. Everyone is to pick dates that they are available.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Motion to accept a Resolution authorizing a closed-session or executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation; lawyer-client privileged material and personnel material. Subject matter to be released when it is no longer privileged, by Commissioner Eitel, Seconded by Commissioner Flora. **ROLE CALL:** COMMISSIONER EITEL: AYE; COMMISSIONER CONCATO: AYE; COMMISSIONER LOGAN: AYE; COMMISSIONER BAYLIS: AYE; COMMISSIONER FLORA: AYE.

Meeting closed to the public for Executive at 8:50 p.m.

Executive session opened at 8:50p.m. In attendance are Commissioner Concato, Baylis, Flora, Eitel and Logan. President Tim Carson, Assistant Chief Fatovic and Safety Officer Hussey.

Executive session closed at 10:10 p.m.

Regular meeting reopened at 10:10 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting p.m. by Commissioner Flora, seconded by Commissioner Concato. **VOTE: AYE** - Commissioners Baylis, Flora, Eitel, Concato and Logan. **NAY** - None.

COMMISSIONER FLORA, SECRETARY