

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, District #3, was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Attorney Joseph Youssouf on March 17, 2008...

PRESENT – Commissioners Eitel, Concato, Jordan
Commissioner Baylis arrived at 8:10 p.m.
Commissioner Waters appointed later in the meeting.

ABSENT - None

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

Attorney Joseph Youssouf swore in newly elected Commissioner Clifford Jordan.

ATTORNEY JOSEPH YOUSOUF –

Attorney Joseph Youssouf read the following Resolutions for approval:

Resolution awarding a contract for Professional Services to Family Practice of Central New Jersey for 2008. Motion to accept by Commissioner Eitel, seconded by Commissioner Concato. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Eitel, Concato, and Jordan. **NAY:** None.

Resolution Schedule Meeting Dates for the Year 2008. Motion to accept by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Concato. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Eitel, Concato, and Jordan. **NAY:** None.

Resolution Designating Official Depositories of Fire District Funds for 2008. Motion to accept by Commissioner Concato, seconded by Commissioner Jordan. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Eitel, Concato, and Jordan. **NAY:** None.

Resolution Designating the official Newspapers for the year 2008. It was noted that the Tri-town news lost their status as a legal notice paper, so the Board will have to go with the Newark Star Ledger. Motion to accept by Commissioner Eitel, seconded by Commissioner Concato. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Eitel, Concato, and Jordan. **NAY:** None.

Resolution appointing Ronald C. Petrics CPA District Auditor for the Year 2008. Motion to accept by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Concato. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Eitel, Concato, and Jordan. **NAY:** None.

Resolution appointing Joseph D. Youssouf Board Attorney for 2008. Motion to accept by Commissioner Eitel, seconded by Commissioner Concato. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Eitel, Concato, and Jordan. **NAY:** None.

VOLUNTEER COMPANY REPORT – President Carson advises that after review it was noted that Matt Jordan and Scott Jordan were never official voted in by the Board of Fire Commissioners. Commissioner Eitel makes a motion to accept the two Jordan Brothers into the Volunteer Fire Company, seconded by Commissioner Concato. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Eitel, Concato, and Jordan. **NAY:** None.

President Carson advises the Board that they have a new members, Joseph Sommers. He is a transfer out of Sayreville. Motion to accept New Firefighter Sommers by Commissioner Eitel, seconded by Commissioner Jordan. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Eitel, Concato, and Jordan. **NAY:** None.

President Carson advises the Board that they are looking into a Feasibility study to expand the main Station. They have an Architect with a proposal of \$6,400 for the study and he will advise the Fire Company as to what the best way to add onto the building would be. They will still be adding the offices, but would like Ronald M. Snider to come out with his opinion for the expansion. Mr. Snider came recommended by Gordon's Corner Fire Company. Attorney Youssouf advises that this is a professional proposal and the Board does not need to get three quotes, but can do so, if they so elect. President Carson is asking the Board to consider any monetary assistance in this matter. Chairman Eitel advises that the Board will take it under advisement and get back to the Fire Company.

President Carson advises that the last storm blew out the bay doors on 5521 and 5505's bay door. The members were able to rig them so that they work, but requests that when the Board works on their budget for 2009, that they consider replace the aging doors at the main station.

Commissioner Eitel asks for an update on the Shed. President Carson advises that they are getting the land leveled and cement is being ordered. They are also waiting 21 days for the permit to come back. They will be ordering the shed, once all this is completed. They are working with Sylvi and Clayton Block for the cement.

SECRETARIES REPORT – Motion to approve the minutes as typed by Commissioner Jordon, seconded by Commissioner Eitel. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Eitel, Concato, and Jordan. **NAY:** None.

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

BUREAU FIRE SAFETY REPORT – No report this month.

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

Chief Byrnes advises that 5501 is show its age and there is a constant leaking of oil issue. Brian added an additive to try and stop some of it, but the Board needs to consider replacing this truck as soon as possible.

Suburban broke down at Monmouth County Fire Academy. Battery and alternator are being looked at. Otherwise all other trucks and equipment are in service.

Chief Byrnes advises that Quality started on Sunday. He met with them last Friday and he has the agreement to be signed by the board tonight.

Chief Byrnes advises that he is still playing phone tag with the Board of Education but that he is still working on the fueling issue with them.

Chief Byrnes advises that the Defib unit has been ordered and we are still awaiting delivery.

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

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 Jordan Seconded by Commissioner Concato. **ROLE CALL:** COMMISSIONER EITEL: AYE; COMMISSIONER CONCATO: AYE; COMMISSIONER JORDAN: AYE; COMMISSIONER BAYLIS: AYE.

Public Meeting session closed at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Executive Session closed at 9:08 p.m.

Attorney Youssouf chairs the meeting for the reorganization.

Motion to Nominate Erik Eitel as Chairman of the Board by Commissioner Concato, Seconded by Commissioner Baylis. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Eitel, Concato, Jordan and Baylis. **NAY:** None.

Motion to Nominate Robert Concato as Co-Chairman of the Board by Commissioner Eitel, seconded by Commissioner Baylis. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Eitel, Concato, Jordan and Baylis. **NAY:** None.

Motion to Nominate Robert Baylis as Treasurer by Commissioner Eitel, seconded by Commissioner Concato. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Eitel, Concato, Jordan and Baylis. **NAY:** None.

Motion to Nominate Clifford Jordan as Secretary by Commissioner Eitel, seconded by Commissioner Baylis. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Eitel, Concato, Jordan and Baylis. **NAY:** None.

Due to the untimely passing of Commissioner Carmine Flora, a position is open on the Board and needs to be filled. Motion to Nominate the appointment of past-Commissioner Mike Waters by Commissioner Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Concato. Motion to Nominate past-commissioner Edward Logan by Commissioner Eitel. No second, Motion fails for lack of. **Roll Call vote** on Appointing Commissioner Waters: **AYE:** Commissioners Concato, Baylis and Jordan. **NAY:** Commissioner Eitel.

Attorney Youssouf swears in Mike Waters and advises that he will be the Assistant Secretary / Assistant Treasurer.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

President Carson asks why the Battalion Chief position is not being discussed this evening and doesn't it have to be advertised that it's not being Discussed. Commissioner Eitel advises that due to the untimely passing of Commissioner Flora he wanted to give ample opportunity to the new Board to review all facts prior to putting it to a vote. Attorney Youssouf advises that no advertisement is needed to postpone something from the agenda. The Board has charge of the agenda.

President Carson questions the organization chart handed out at the previous meeting and asks how it can supersede the previously resolution that the Board submitted regarding Chief of the Career Department. Commissioner Eitel advises that the new organizational chart has not been finalized at this time. Attorney Youssouf advises that the flow chart has to be done by Resolution to keep consistent and orderly, it should be done a public hearing. President Carson requests that the volunteer company sit down with the Board to discuss this prior to it being introduced for acceptance. Commissioner Eitel, so noted.

President Carson next addresses his concerns as a taxpayer over the Budget expenditure line items. How such an increase in salaries was received between 2006 and 2007. Also, Previously we put away \$200,000 and \$250,000 into future capital outlay and this year we are only putting away \$50,000. Discussion regarding the cap laws laid down on the Board this year.

President Carson questions the need to hire two additional firefighters. He states that the volunteers are coming out during the day time calls. Chief Byrnes says he doesn't

see that at all. He would welcome the volunteers to come out during the day time, but no one is around during the day time.

President Carson questions what Whitesville is paying the Board and why Fire District 3's funds are supporting Whitesville. Advises the Board that other districts have said why should they hire when district 3 will send 12 men. Chief Byrnes advises that that will be changing in the future and that he will be giving notice to the other districts and gives them a time frame so that they can replenish their own staff.

Mr. McGinn Sr asks where these two new firefighters are going to be placed and Chief Byrnes advises that one will be placed in Whitesville and one will be a floater for when guys are off. Public questions why another person is going to Whitesville and Chief Byrnes advises "For Safety".

Mr. McGinn expressed his concerns further over the payment from Whitesville to District 3 and the fact that District 3's taxpayers dollars are support District 1. Commissioner Baylis advises of the contract between Whitesville and the moving of Westlake's rateables to District 3.

President Carson questions the Board's position on why salaries went from \$890,000 to \$1,100,000 in one year's time. Chief Byrnes responds that his responsibility is to Fire District 3 and the firefighters. Everything we need to do is done in the first 5 to 10 minutes. He has no staffing other than the career staffing in that time frame. He must look out for the Firefighter's safety.

Further discussion regarding the contract with Whitesville. Questions regarding when the contract is renewable. Mr. McGinn Sr feels that we should pull out of Whitesville if they are not going to pay 100%. Chief Byrnes advises of the additional manpower and equipment that arrives from Whitesville on a regular basis. He discusses the rateables and that the new rate will be based on their increase to their rateables, as well as the firefighter's salary increase. Further discussion regarding Whitesville and the career staff of District 3 working for Whitesville.

Firefighter Muller stated that we are not operating within our means. They are hurting for Equipment. We don't have money for Equipment but have money for salaries. The Inventory is down but we can hire new firefighters. Chief Byrnes advised that there he is not aware of any equipment that is urgently needed. He advised Firefighter Muller that this is March 17 and I have no requisitions from you for any equipment that you need.

Past Firefighter Charlie Sternum questions the switching of personnel from District 3 to District 1 and is this legal to do. Attorney Youssouf advises that there are no legal problems to this matter.

President Carson questions if the staff is now going to stop going to first aid calls since there are three ambulances now in town. Chief Byrnes advises that we will still be

responding but expects it to be less calls that we actually make it to. They do not respond to certain calls such as lifts, etc. President Carson questions regarding the excess wear on the trucks. Need to limit the calls and requests to have the Board look into it. Also discussion regarding the Fire Official memo regarding no responses after 4 p.m. If this is the case, why is the vehicle leaving the district? Chief Byrne advises that it is in his contract.

Discussion regarding the final response numbers for 2007. Chief Byrnes advises that they are within the limits and it is ok to release the \$20,000.

Meeting closed to the public for Executive at 10:00 p.m.

Executive session closed at 10:17 p.m.

Regular meeting reopened at 10:18 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:18 p.m. by Commissioner Concato, seconded by Commissioner Waters. **VOTE: AYE** - Commissioners Eitel, Concato, Jordan, Baylis and Waters. **NAY** - None.

President Carson Advises that he is in need of six rooms for Baltimore, one for each firefighter: Baylis, Carson, Bergner, Hussey, Hratko and Siedler.

COMMISSIONER JORDAN, SECRETARY