

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, District #3, was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Commissioner Walter on May 18, 2009.

PRESENT – Commissioners Walter, C. Jordan, Baylis, M. Jordan, and Concato.

ABSENT - None

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

VOLUNTEER COMPANY REPORT – President Hussey advised that he gave three new support members names to Administrative Clerk Brown for the rooster. He also requests that the Insurance information be forwarded over to him as soon as possible.

SECRETARIES REPORT – Motion to approve the minutes of March 16, 2009 as prepared by Administrative Clerk Brown, Motion by Commissioner M Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Concato. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Walter, C. Jordan, M. Jordan, and Concato. **NAY:** None.

Motion to approve the minutes of April 20, 2009 as prepared by Administrative Clerk Brown, Motion by Commissioner C Jordan, seconded by Commissioner M Jordan. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Walter, C. Jordan, M. Jordan, and Concato. **NAY:** None

Motion to approve the minutes of a special meeting held on May 4, 2009 as prepared by Assistant Clerk Logan, Motion by Commissioner M Jordan, seconded by Commissioner C Jordan. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Walter, C. Jordan, M. Jordan, and Concato. **NAY:** None

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

COMPANY REPORTS:

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

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

Discussion regarding 5511's repairs to the tank. Chief Byrnes advised that the hose was taken off today and they should be here tomorrow morning to look and repair the tank.

Joint Chief's meeting the board is advised that there are many discussions going on but nothing to share at this time. Board asks if there are any questions for the chiefs.

Station recap report will be emailed on Mondays for the previous week. Commissioner Walter set aside that report and will read thru it later.

Safety committee did not meet this month. They meet quarterly unless a major incident occurs. Next meeting pursuant to Lieutenant Moore is August. Chief Fatovic requests a copy of their agenda.

Discussion regarding training announcements. Troubles with feedback on when they are scheduled. Need to post it centrally. Chief Byrnes advises that they are posted at both stations. Schools from the academies, drills that have been scheduled by Waters are posted. Commissioner Walter questioned the Washer/Extractor training, Chief Byrnes advises that he sent out 2 email notices and received no feedback on the class. He also advises that he is working on the SOGs from the feedback he has received. Commissioner C Jordan advises the chief the best way to get the word out there is to post the sogs on the website. One central calendar and an information data base.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – Attorney Youssouf advised that he received an email request regarding the issuance of summons for individuals who violate the fire zones. Police have advised that if we give them permission, they will issue summons on our behalf. However, the fee would go to them. Fire zones are established by ordinance, fines are fixed by ordinance. An agreement between the board fire and municipal court for the disposition of the fees is a 65/35 split. Unless you increased the \$42 fee to something around \$140, it wouldn't be worth it. Firefighter would have to appear in court, time off or overtime if in the off hours. Board would be better off letting the police issue the tickets.

OLD BUSINESS – Discussion regarding the bid specs. Changes made by Chief Byrnes. O'Keefe has approved them and is sending down a finalized version. Once you authorize, the notice of publication you can accept bids 30 days after. Person can pick up bid and provide spec with bids. Date of publications to date of bids. Keep this item open until commissioner Baylis arrives.

Chief's vehicle discussion. Chief Byrnes advised that three quotes were received. State bid was \$27418, Larson Ford was \$27667, Freehold Ford was \$29149 and Downs Ford was \$27,211. Bid was awarded to Downs Ford as the lowest bidder as they beat out the State's Bid. Motion made by Commissioner M.Jordan to award bid to Downs Ford, seconded by Commissioner Concato. VOTE: AYE: Commissioner M. Jordan, AYE: Commissioner Concato; AYE: Commissioner C. Jordan and AYE: Commissioner Walter. Absent: Commissioner Baylis.

Discussion regarding email addresses and the discount on the firefighter's cell phones for having an email address connected to the district. Administrative Clerk Brown advised that she contacted Lowest Hosting and our technician and the project is being worked on.

Discussion regarding the washer/extractor issue regarding the proper cleaning of the soiled gear. Everyone was trained and an SOG is in draft form for Chief Fatovic and Chief Byrnes to finalize as soon as they set up the proper procedures for use.

Discussion regarding the repainting and graphics being applied to 5504. It was noted that the suburban was to be replaced by Chief's Byrnes Current vehicle when he received his new vehicle. The jimmy was given to us by the township for fire police. Going to stock it with water and towels for fire calls and send someone back for it when needed. Attorney advised that it can be used for anything the district wishes. The chief's are talking and will discuss how to get rid of the suburban. They will get the latest blue book value and the lowest price. It was noted that we got \$1,000 for the other suburban. This item to be placed on next month's agenda.

Discussion regarding the Brake Inspection program. Brian and Chief Byrnes have gone over the details of the NFPA Truck Inspection Report. We did our first truck last week and the chief has a copy of the report. As they come in he will make up specific reports for each vehicle. Brakes are being done as previously discussed and we do have it in writing. Chief Byrnes to scan and email it to all commissioners to save paper.

Discussion regarding status of company physicals. Chief Fatovic advises that all but 7 of his guys have completed their physicals. Chief Byrnes advises that the career staff is at a standstill regarding the SOG. They attempted to have a meeting, but they had too many fire calls that day. Discussion regarding the contractual issue that if it is not done within the year, cannot enter building. Chief Fatovic advises that if you don't have your physical done, then his guys gear is pulled. Questions what the major hang-up is with the career's physicals. Chief Byrnes advises that it is the drug testing. A policy was established for the Volunteers but not for the career. Until that policy is established an accepted, physicals will not be completed. Chief Byrnes also advised that he called for his physical and they are already scheduling them into June. So the sooner the Meeting is held, the sooner he can get his career staff in for their physicals. Attorney advises that the physicals are not a state law. It is a policy within the district. It is a suggested schedule and is not mandatory and is subject to collective bargaining. Drug screening is a significant difference between career and volunteer. Attorney advises that no gear be pulled from Career staff and that no violations are occurring. Board to resolve drug screening issue at the next labor management meeting so that the career staff can proceed.

Attorney and Commissioner Concato reviewed contract and found that Article 24, section 1 advises that the physicals are mandatory. Commissioner Walter says he would rather have it all done at once. No objection, nothing in writing that mandates

when it is to be done. Commissioners would rather wait and pay for one time.
Discussed the difference between public sector and private sector.

5503 had a problem with the air gauges. Airgas ordered the appropriate gages and they will be in any day. 5521 has an oil leak. It is advised that it is the nature of the beast with a Detroit diesel. Nothing can be done.

Discussion regarding the Scott Bottle refilling. Chief Byrnes and Chief Fatovic are working on the SOGS. They've done a couple of drafts since the last meeting and no problems. Keep on agenda for next month.

NEW BUSINESS – Discussion regarding 5718. Chief Byrnes still has not received a letter or the title from District 1. On the advice of our mechanic, it is not worth keeping and we should put it out to bid. Keep on agenda for next month

Discussion regarding EZPass. Commissioner C Jordan went to school and there was no teller at the booth and he had no change. Chief Byrnes advises that he did apply for the vehicle EZPasses and they are to be used for emergency purposes only.

Resolution letter to send. Further discussion about getting one epass for the fire vehicles for school. Motion to obtain epass and monitor the billings every month by Commissioner C Jordan, seconded by M Jordan. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners C. Jordan, M. Jordan, Baylis and Concato. **NAY:** Commissioner Walter.

Discussion regarding the deferred compensation resolution. Once approved needs to be submitted to the state for their approval. This program only has a cost to the employee who elects to participate in it. It costs the Board nothing. Motion made to accept the Resolution authorizing the establishment of the 457 program for the employees by Commissioner C Jordan and seconded by M. Jordan. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Walter, C. Jordan, M. Jordan, Baylis and Concato. **NAY:** None

Discussion regarding the Cert team and their Certification trailer. Cert Leader, Al Robbins, requests that they be allowed to store their trailer in the back parking lot. Discussion of possibly donating the suburban to the Cert team. Motion made by Commissioner C Jordan and seconded by Commissioner M. Jordan to allow the cert team to store their trailer in our back parking lot and provide the necessary certificate of insurance. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Walter, C. Jordan, M. Jordan, Baylis and Concato. **NAY:** None

Further discussion on the Replacement of the Pumper with Commissioner Baylis. Verbally Commissioner Baylis told that the specs were good. Officer McGinn advises that he would like to bring the changes made back to the truck committee prior to submitting the specs out to bid. Board agreed to hold off to the July Meeting for the resolution with a return date of the August meeting.

Commissioner Walter questions the SOG's and the Board's roll in these. He proposes that the Board review and then have a final say on the SOG before it is official. Chief

Byrnes advises that the Board has no business in operation. If they want to approve Administrative SOGS he has no problem with this. Chief Fatovic agrees. Commissioner Walter and Chief Byrnes have further discussions regarding this issue. Chief Byrnes recommends that the board "Review and Accept" the Firematic SOGS and will not agree to "Review and Approve" as the Commissioners are not properly trained in this capacity. Attorney Youssouf steps in and advises the Board that they should proceed cautiously here and recommends that they do not write the SOGS but only review and accept as recommended by the Chief. Any comments the Board makes on the SOGs would be for clarity purposes only. Commissioner Walter questions how he will know if the board's recommendations are approved or the comments accepted. Board approves that they will review and accept at this time. Attorney to produce written clarification on the procedures of this. Keep this on the agenda for June

Chief has two SOGs in progress. Will have them finished by the end of the week. Keep this on the Agenda for June.

Commissioner Walter initiates and opens discussion on the company's role on EMS. He doesn't feel the career people should be chasing ambulances. Chief Byrnes advises Commissioners that the truck does not always follow the ambulance. Sometimes the Ambulance isn't even in our building. Estimated numbers we had 39 ems calls on the west side of town and 11 fire calls. New Jersey State legislator is working on making fire departments take over EMS. Firefighter Hilger expresses that the Board is playing a very dangerous game by stopping EMS or limiting the calls. Commissioner M. Jordan advises that he does not want the ladder truck rolling out after the ambulance. Commissioner C. Jordan questions what happens on weekends. Chief Byrnes advises that we have gone thru 6 paid services and each time, they come in and it takes them time to learn the area, etc. This department has intervened in more lives. Don't stop EMS just find a better way. Lt. Moore advises that we are on the road a lot of times already. This saves time and we beat out the ambulance the majority of the time. Commissioner Jordan reiterates that he does not want the ladder truck going to ems and he doesn't like the idea of splitting the crew. Commissioner C Jordan likes Chief Byrnes' original plan of 5511 only doing EMS out of the main station only. Commissioner M. Jordan doesn't see the need for a truck coming out of this station for EMS when the ambulance is here. Excessive wear and tear on vehicle. Questioned raised from audience regarding EMS v. Parades. There's wear and tear on the trucks when you go to parades. Further discussion of possibly utilizing a vehicle to run EMS rather than a fire truck. Statement made that "we are firefighters – not ambulance drivers. Commissioner C Jordan wants to follow previous proposal. Further discussion of changing shifts, splitting crews. It is decided that Commissioner M Jordan will hold a discussion with Chief Byrnes and the union members and this item will be tabled for the June Agenda. Commissioner Walter wants the notes of the meeting to be emailed to Board members.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: no discussion

Motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:00 p.m. by Commissioner C Jordan, seconded by Commissioner M Jordan. **VOTE: AYE:** Commissioners Walter, C. Jordan, Baylis, M. Jordan, and Concato. **NAY:** None.

COMMISSIONER M. JORDAN, SECRETARY