

Montgomery Township District No. 1
Board of Fire Commissioner's Meeting
35 Belle Mead-Griggstown Road
PO Box 130
Belle Mead, NJ 08502

Minutes of October 10, 2017

Call To Order -- The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairman Spohn, following proof of publication in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. The Annual Meeting Notice was published in the official newspaper of the district and provided to two other newspapers, filed with the municipal clerk, and posted at the municipal building, the Board's office and on the fire district website.

Roll Call -- Upon Roll Call the following Commissioners were present: W. Spohn, T. Karsay (arrived 7:39), E. Fedun, J. Kessler and W. Hyncik. Absent: None. None. Also present: Chief Huxley, Engineer Fedun, L. Franchino and Attorney Griswold.

Approval of Minutes – The Board reviewed the minutes of the September 12, 2017 regular meeting. *A motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2017 board meeting as presented.*
Motion made by Hyncik. 2nd by Kessler. Motion passed without objection.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Monthly Bills/Financial Statement Review -- A copy of the Treasurer's report was made available to each Commissioner with a list and description of the bills to be paid. One invoice was added to the list of bills to be paid at this meeting: AmTrust N.A. for the last workers' compensation installment (\$5,417.80), chargeable to the 2017 Insurance appropriation.

A Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report and to approve payment of the bills as presented and supplemented.

Motion made by Hyncik. 2nd by Fedun. Motion passed without objection

RESOLUTION 2017-35 – Payment of Bills

The Chief Financial Officer having certified there are sufficient encumbered and unencumbered funds in the 2017 budget to pay the bills as presented and supplemented, and having designated the accounts to which each should be charged, a Resolution passed authorizing payment of the bills in the total amount of \$21,605.47.

Resolution Ayes: Spohn, Fedun, Hyncik, Karsay, Kessler. Nays: None. Absent: None.
Commissioner Karsay abstained from voting on approval of reimbursements to Karsay Coffee.
Commissioner Fedun abstained from voting on approval of payments to Harlingen Garage.

PUBLIC COMMENT- None.

EMS PRESENTATION - Johanna Snedeker, Captain of MEMS, presented options the board might consider as its 2017 purchase of equipment or supplies for use by MEMS. She feels these items would be mutually beneficial to the fire services and the squad: 1) a larger pop-up tent (10'x20') with detachable sides and accessory weights for use at fire scenes (cost estimate \$500.00); 2) side-release scoop stretchers which allow patients to be immobilized in the position found and not have to be lifted or log rolled, providing less stress on the patient as well as on the responder (2ea. for rehab trailer – cost estimate

\$1000.00 each); 3) an ice machine for the MEMS station to do away with the squad's need to package and store ice for rehab and response from machines located in Station 45 or 46 (cost estimate including installation \$2,500.00). Commissioner Hyncik commented that these items appear directly related to fire service and EMS interaction. Commissioner Spohn indicated the board would pass this information along for input from the fire company officers but that MEMS should provide for board consideration 2 or 3 written competitive quotes, including shipping costs, for each request.

MEETING UPDATES

Emergency Services – Will meet later this month.

Fire Prevention – Fire Prevention public open house will be held at the firehouse from 6-9 pm on October 12th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Aerial replacement - Chairman of the committee, Deputy Chief Kevin Schroeck, presented an overview of the committee's research and recommendations for the replacement of 45-116, the 1999 aerial apparatus owned by the district. The committee researched a number of alternatives for securing a suitable vehicle, with cost being a key element. The apparatus that best meets the needs of the fire company is a Pierce 100' platform aerial. Purchasing through the H-GAC cooperative is a streamlined and efficient process – the time factor and cost of creating and disseminating specifications is removed, the terms of the purchase agreement are negotiated by H-GAC, and its sales organization handles all paperwork, including change orders, if any, making the process less burdensome and less costly than through alternative methods of purchase. There is a minimum 13-14 month time lapse between ordering and delivery, so ideally the committee would like to get the money for the purchase included in the 2018 budget, which would require a special vote of taxpayers prior to year-end 2017. Delivery would then be in late 2019 or 2020. The current gross price is \$1,469,148.05, not taking into account any trade-in value of the old ladder truck or any pre-payment or down payment discounts which may be available.

A Motion was made to authorize a special meeting with special vote of taxpayers to approve the purchase of an aerial apparatus in an amount not to exceed \$1,469,150.00, to pay for same with money in the fire district's capital savings, and to include the expenditure in the fire district's 2018 budget.

Motion made by Kessler. 2nd by Hyncik. Motion passed without objection

RESOLUTION 2017-36 - Authorizing a Special Meeting and Vote of Taxpayers to Approve Capital Purchase of an Aerial Fire Apparatus

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners has determined that it is in the best health and safety interests of the residents of Montgomery Township Fire District No. 1 and its volunteers and emergency responders who provide services to the fire district to purchase an aerial apparatus to replace what will be a 20 year-old apparatus by the time the new apparatus is delivered; and

WHEREAS, the project would be a capital expense requiring taxpayer approval prior to its inclusion in the fire district's 2018 budget; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:14-84 authorizes the commissioners of the fire district to call a special meeting at which the legal voters of the fire district may vote to approve or disapprove the purchase and if approved, to determine the amount of money to be raised, the amount of which shall be included in the next succeeding annual budget of the fire district; and

WHEREAS, the entire cost of this project will be paid for from the Restricted Capital Fund (savings) of the fire district and will not be included in, or increase the amount proposed to be raised by taxation in the 2018 budget.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that a special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners and a special vote of taxpayers of the fire district will be held on November 14, 2017, at which meeting voters may cast their votes from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. by ballot provided at the meeting, at the Montgomery Township Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 firehouse at 35 Belle Mead-Griggstown Road, in Belle Mead, New Jersey; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the purpose of the vote shall be to ask voter approval to purchase an aerial apparatus at a cost not to exceed \$1,469,150.00, and to transfer from the fire district's Restricted Capital Fund (savings) and to include as a capital expenditure in the fire district's 2018 annual budget a sum not to exceed \$1,469,150.00 for the purchase and equipping as much as possible of the apparatus; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that notice of the meeting and its purpose shall be provided in such manner as complies with New Jersey statutes.

Resolution Ayes: Spohn, Fedun, Hyncik, Karsay, Kessler. Nays: None. Absent: None.

OLD BUSINESS

Fire Company Agreement/Lease – Commissioners Fedun and Kessler are working with fire company representatives and expect a proposed renewal contract for board review at the next meeting.

Firehouse HVAC and Lighting – HVAC needs replacement and lighting will be changed to LED which should reduce utility costs. The fire company has secured quotes for the work and is researching grant opportunities that may help cover the cost.

NEW BUSINESS

Vehicle Collision – The Deputy Chief's vehicle was damaged in a collision with a deer. A claim has been submitted to the district's insurance company.

CHIEF'S REPORT

The fire company responded to 16 calls during September, 2017. Calls included 2 CO incidents, a vehicle accident, a water leak, and a public service call.

Drills/Work Sessions – Pump/drafting drill - truck & equipment checks.

Activities – Members attended the Wildwood Relief Association Convention.

A Motion was made to approve purchases and reimbursements presented to the board.

Motion by Hyncik.

2nd by Karsay.

Motion passed without objection.

RESOLUTION 2017-37 – Approval of Purchases and Reimbursements

The Chief Financial Officer having certified there are sufficient unencumbered funds available in the 2017 budget, a Resolution passed authorizing the following expenditures:

- 1. Purchase of ropes and vests (water rescue gear) for the Special Services vehicle pursuant to lowest quote received from Witmer Public Safety, unless a lower quoting vendor is secured, at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00, chargeable to the 2017 General Operating appropriation.*
- 2. Reimbursement to the MTVFC Chief's Account for copy paper (Staples \$64.09) and command vehicle worksheet (\$32.20), both chargeable to the 2017 Office appropriation.*

Resolution Ayes: Spohn, Fedun, Hyncik, Karsay, Kessler. Nays: None. Absent: None.

ENGINEER'S REPORT –

- The ladder truck has been repaired and is back in service; tires still need replacement - will secure quotes.
- The rear brakes on 45-3 need repair – the engineer is securing quotes and will report back.
- The rescue truck sustained slight damage during training - will secure estimate for repair.

2018 BUDGET – Will be further discussion next month.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is to take place on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at 7:30 pm.

Motion made by Hyncik. 2nd by Fedun. Motion passed without objection.