

Pittsgrove Township District 3 Board of Fire
Commissioners Meeting Minutes

November 4th, 2019

The November 2019 meeting was called to order at 19:30 by Chairman Smith. Chairman Smith opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and acknowledging the Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law)

Roll Call

Richard Smith	Present
Jeffrey Morse	Present
Christopher McDowell	Present
Sean Henderson	Present
Ben Miller	Present

Reading of the previous meetings minutes

The minutes of the October 2019 meeting were read by Jeffrey Morse. On a motion by Henderson and a second by McDowell the minutes were approved as read. Vote: All in Favor.

Bills

Bills for October were read by Miller. On a motion by Morse and a second by Henderson the bills were approved to be paid. Vote: All on Favor.

Atlantic City Electric	320.46
Comcast	307.29
Ed Myers Jr.	346.04
D & D Auto Repair	150.00
Elmer Times	10.00
WaWa Fuel	34.00
Total	1,167.79

Chief's Report

For the monthly drill, the company had hands-on testing with the combi tool from ESI. Everyone liked it. Total cost with training included is \$11,386. Motion made by Morse to purchase the tool, Henderson seconds. Vote: All in Favor.

5 cans of 5 gallons of foam for 23-2 was quoted for \$640.00. Henderson makes the motion to purchase the foam, Miller seconds. Vote: All in Favor.

Next Saturday is the Vetearn's Memorial Service, a crew was requested along with permission to use Ladder 23-6, which was given by the Board.

The company is working on a quote for the valves that need to be replaced on 23-5, at this time the quotes aren't completed.

The HAZMAT drill as well as the District 3 Drill was postponed until the Spring. The company did a fire prevention demo for the Middle School. Trunk or Treat was a massive success with the company handing out 1,600 pieces of candy.

Company Report

The broken electric wheel for 23-1 was replaced.

Old Business

3 asphalt quotes, discussion. In total one quote was not completed correctly and another quote was not done to the boards standards. It was decided to table the asphalt to spring time.

Our audit for last year is still not completed. Unsure why Bowman & Company is taking so long to complete it. It is almost time to begin the audit for this year. Chairman Smith said he would call and check on the status of our audit.

For the recent injury Traveler's insurance is denying our workman's compensation claim. They are claiming that heart attacks are not included to be covered. VFIS is currently covering the charge, but noted to us that workmans comp should cover it and that workman's compensation does cover heart attacks in the State of New

Jersey. VFIS is giving the injured party \$814.00 also for the injury. It should be noted on our end we reported everything correctly and followed all of the protocols correctly. There was a discussion on having our lawyer get involved to pursue reimbursement. Henderson makes a motion to have the lawyer handle this matter further. McDowell seconds. Vote: All in Favor.

We received an additional quote from VFIS to increase our coverage from \$10,000 to \$100,000, for an additional \$410 a year. Morse makes the motion to purchase the additional coverage, Henderson seconds. Vote: All in Favor.

There was a discussion on how Traveler's Insurance conducted their investigation. It should be noted that they called the injured party the day after the injury while they were still in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. The board is very disappointed with every aspect of this process. We will begin looking into a different insurance agency. We will speak to Station 22 on who their provider is.

We went to Kris Electric to get quotes to look at our electrical issue. They suggested the electrical engineer ARC Design and Consulting. Owned by Roger Anderson. We received a quote for \$1,100 from him. Members of the fire company brought to the attention of the board that Mr. Anderson had issues with the fire company. Due to this possible conflict of interest, a different electrical engineer will be used. A few different names were given, mainly George Coleman.

Nash Hetzell noted that the fire company lost their tax exempt status. He asked the Fire Commissioner's permission to contact Bowman & Company to regain the tax exempt status. Permission was granted.

Chief Tim O'Donnell of Willow Grove Fire Company emailed Chief Myers advising he had submitted the injury report to the State of New Jersey. The Division of Fire Safety suggested we have all injured members be approved for service by the Commissioner's Physician. Our injured member was approved for service as of now by the Heart House. After a quick discussion it was noted that this more than enough, due to the nature of the injury being cardiac, the Heart House was more than qualified to approve this member for service.

New Business

Chairman Smith mentioned that Bowman & Company perform an audit on our losap. Smith mentioned that the state has been performing audits on LOSAP due to it's abuse in North Jersey. Henderson mentioned if we could

see a copy of the letter from anybody to perform the audit. There was a discussion on this matter, Smith said if he could find a copy, it would be presented. Henderson also asked to get a copy of the final report as well.

Henderson mentioned that the board would benefit from increasing the communication between the commissioners. He asked that everyone on the board be attached to all emails relating to BOFC business. It was also mentioned that if there is a matter that should be resolved before the next meeting, then all matters should be discussed in full in person or via email before a vote via the phone or in person. Everyone agreed this is how matters shall be handled from here on out. There was discussion on what money is left for the year. It was decided that we could get an additional 5 sets of gear. Henderson makes the motion to purchase an additional 5 sets of gear, Morse seconds. Vote: All in Favor.

Morse reported on 3 new sets of Standard Operating Guidelines put forth by Morse, and approved by Chief Myers. Section 6.3, Section 8.8, and Section 8.9 were added. They were New Member Orientation, Incident Command System Forms 214, and Motor Vehicle Crash Documentation. More Standard Operating Guidelines are also being worked on.

Morse also mentioned the Fire Company was implementing a Fire Cadet Program to introduce younger people to the fire service. It was put forward by the state to attempt to assist volunteer departments. Morse inquired if the Commissioners would need to update anything on their end. After a quick discussion it was decided no changes would need to occur for BOFC.

There was a small discussion on injury reporting.

There was a discussion on a letter from VFIS saying they will not renew us next year, after closer inspection, they are just getting bought out and our policy will not be affected.

Adjournment

Henderson motioned for adjournment at 20:53, Morse seconds. Vote: All in Favor.