

**HARRISON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

**312 Ewan Road
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062
(856) 478-0423
Fax: (856)478-0429**

Michael Koestler, Chairman
Mario Olsen, V. Chairman
Walter Bright, Treasurer

Andrea Reahm, Secretary
Ken Powell, Commissioner

**REGULAR MEETING
OF
June 18, 2014**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Michael Koestler with the reading of the Open Public Meeting Notice and saluting of the flag.

ROLL CALL: Commissioners Koestler, Reahm, Olsen, Powell and Bright were in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Olsen and seconded by Reahm it was moved to approve all three of the minutes of **April 16, 2014** meeting, **April 16, 2014** closed session meeting, and **May 21, 2014** meeting as a consent agenda.

ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

On motion by Olsen and seconded by Bright, it was moved to open the privilege of the floor.

ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

On motion by Bright and seconded by Olsen, it was moved to close the privilege of the floor.

ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

The following resolutions were presented for approval/adoption:

Resolution No. **14-024:** Providing for and ratifying closed session held at the March 6, 2014 Reorganization Meeting

Motion to approve by Olsen and seconded by Reahm

ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes. Motion Carried

Resolution No. **14-025**: Approving the corrective action plan in response to the 2013 Audit.
Motion to approve by Bright and seconded by Reahm
ROLL CALL VOTE:. All Ayes. Motion Carried

DISTRICT CHIEF'S REPORT for May 2014:
Attached as an appendix.

In addition, Chief Mason mentioned that the freezer used for the Fire Fighter rehabilitation vests is broken at the Harmony station and he will be replacing it. The cost is \$250.00 and has been budgeted for therefore the Chief will be purchasing a new one.

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION REPORT for May 2014:
Attached as an appendix.

FINANCIAL REPORT for May 2014:
Attached as an appendix.

On motion by Bright and seconded by Olsen it was moved to pay all bills.
ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Koestler asked the Board if anyone had anything to discuss for new business. Commissioner Powell asked if Mr. Dugan could have the vendor look at the exhaust fans at Harmony because "they don't seem to be working right". Mr. Dugan agreed to do so.

Commissioner Olsen asked Chief Bartholomew about the legislation regarding the Narcan reversal agent which is an antidote for heroin overdoses. A general discussion began involving cost, administration, county shared services, etc.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Phone Service was the first topic. Tom Dugan has submitted proposals and contracts for new phone service for both fire stations. These have been reviewed by our attorney, Eric Riso. He raised some concerns regarding year terms and opting out early incurring fees. Commissioner Olsen noted that there was a significant savings if switching to Comcast.

On motion by Olsen and seconded by Reahm it was moved to change the stations phone service to Comcast, retaining one line in each station.
ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

LOSAP was the next topic of discussion. Chairman Koestler and Commissioner Powell recused themselves and left the room. There was a discussion regarding increasing

contributions to LOSAP. The increase should not exceed the CPI. Eric Riso, attorney, will prepare an enabling resolution.

On motion by Olsen and seconded by Reahm it was moved to increase the LOSAP contribution on a recurring basis each year not to exceed the CPI.

ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes. Motion Carried

Koestler and Powell returned to the meeting.

Daytime Firefighter Staffing was the next topic of discussion. Chairman Koestler asked Deputy Chief Danner if he had any feedback after speaking with his fellow firefighters. The SAFER Grant will expire in September at which time the confines of the grant will be eliminated so different choices can be made. Chairman Koestler directed all of the Chiefs to discuss and provide an ideal staffing plan for Harrison Township.

Cindy Perella was the next topic. The current status in the prosecution of the case was discussed. Commissioner Bright inquired about the status of the Insurance Claim involving Cindy Perella's theft of over \$100,000. Attorney Riso indicated that the Insurance Company stated that they were waiting for results from their forensic accountant. The theft occurred more than a year ago. The Board discussed initiating a law suit against the Insurance Company in order to finally settle this claim.

On motion by Koestler and seconded by Olsen, the board authorized filing suit against the Insurance Company in order to settle the claim regarding the theft.

ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes. Motion Carried

NJ American Water Company communication was the next topic. Chairman Koestler has asked for a service agreement to be provided repeatedly which at this time has not occurred.

Chairman Koestler mentioned Tom Dugan and Commissioner Reahm were researching the purchase of replacing chairs for the Commissioners. Tom Dugan asked that the expenditure not exceed \$1,000 for the purchase.

On motion by Bright and seconded by Powell it was moved to purchase the new chairs without exceeding \$1,000.

ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes. Motion Carried

Committeeman Heim who was present, inquired about the new hydrants with Storz fittings. Chief Mason responded that a count is being taken for which need the entire fitting and which do not due to age. They will be ordered according to Chief Mason. Chairman Koestler mentioned that the township within the past year changed the ordinance so that any new hydrants must have the new fittings on them. The ordinance was changed within the past year.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR.

On motion by Bright and seconded by Reahm, it was moved to open the floor to the public.

ROLL CALL VOTE: All ayes. Motion Carried.

Committeeman Heim asked who the Insurance Company was being sued. Chairman Koestler said it was TRICO JIF. Also the timeline for the Prosecutor is sometime in the fall for Perella's trial.

On motion by Bright and seconded by Reahm, it was moved to close the floor to the public.

ROLL CALL VOTE: All ayes. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Since there was nothing further to come before the Commissioners, on motion by Bright and seconded by Powell, it was moved to adjourn said meeting.

ROLL CALL: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16, 2014.

Minutes Approved:

Andrea Reahm, Secretary

This is a brief summary of the meeting of the Harrison Township Fire Commissioners held on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 and should not be considered a verbatim transcript of the meeting.