

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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

Ken Powell, Chairman
Mario Olsen, V. Chairman
Andrea Reahm Commissioner

Lawrence Moore, Secretary
Dr. Peter Sarkos, Treasurer

**REGULAR MEETING
OF
September 16, 2015**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Ken Powell with the reading of the Open Public Meeting Notice And saluting of the flag.

ROLL CALL: Commissioner Olsen, Reahm, Moore, Sarkos and Powell were in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Olsen and seconded by Reahm, it was moved to approve the August 19, 2015 minutes. ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

On a motion by Reahm and seconded by Moore, it was moved to open the privilege of the floor. ROLL CALL VOTE. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

On a motion by Reahm and seconded by Moore, it was moved to close the privilege of the floor. ROLL CALL VOTE. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

15-028 for executive session in reference to Barnett v. HTFD

DISTRICT CHIEF'S REPORT for August 2015:

Attached as a appendix

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT for August 2015:

Attached as a appendix

FINANCIAL REPORT for August 2015:

Attached as an appendix

On a motion by Olsen and seconded by Reahm the financial report was approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

On a motion by Olsen and seconded by Reahm it was moved to pay the bills.

ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussed the budget for 2016 and Chairman Powell mentioned that the 2015 budget we would need to move some money in November for a few line items. Chairman Olsen asked that we allocate money in the future appropriately to cover any excess money in a line item where it might not be required. Business Administrator Bartholomew mentioned that the line items are pretty accurate except in a few areas where the board had approved other expenditures not previously planned and caused them to go beyond their original limit. These lines will be adjusted accordingly in November.

A discussion ensued in regards to the MSR's insurance and if it would be beneficial to offer a stipend in the event that a MSR did not take advantage of the benefits provided by the Fire District. Commissioner Olsen mentioned that past practice would become common law if we allow a credit for not utilizing our benefits that are provided. No determination was made in going forward with this type of credit for the MSR's.

Capitol improvements were discussed in regards to some items that the Chief's are looking for in capitol purchases for 2016. Laptops for the vehicles were discussed as one of the items with Chief Pierson involved in the discussion.

The board discussed the 9-11 artifact and possible locations going forward. The township is forming an ad-hoc committee to research and decided on a possible home for the artifact for years to come. The District plans on being part of the committee and having input to the future location of the 9-11 artifact.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Brief discussion about the hiring of more part time paid staff, which was addressed by Chief Pierson. It was discussed to go back out and advertise again for fire inspectors and firefighters separately and not as an all in one advertisement.

The union was mentioned in regards to the pay increases for the staff and that the union has still made no replies in regards to having representation over our current part time firefighters. Solicitor Riso mentioned that the board is taking the risk of offering pay increases without the union's approval and we are taking the risk of being sued.

Commissioner Sarkos asked for clarification on how long this has been an issue and why aren't the members asking the union for their support. The current paid staff was not directly involved with going to the union as they are suggested to be. The decision will be tabled again until October's meeting to wait and see if the union will decertify with PERCC in order for the Fire District to move forward with pay increases.

A brief statement was made in regards to Inspira building a new hospital in Harrison Township. Commissioner Sarkos mentioned that he received a letter from the President of Inspira stating that the media was accurate in regards to building a hospital in the near future at Rt. 322 and Rt. 55 in Harrison Township.

Commissioner Reahm brought up the flowers on Main Street and asked who is responsible for watering them on a regular basis. Chief Pierson mentioned that the part time staff along with the MSR's who are assigned by the township have been watering the flowers. It was mentioned that they are looking less then adequate and need more attention. Chief Pierson will discuss with the township public works Supervisor and insure the watering gets completed.

Closed Session

On motion by Olsen and seconded by Reahm the board entered into closed session to discuss the case of Barnett v. HTFD. ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes. Motion carried
On motion by Olsen and seconded by Moore, the board came out of closed session.
ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Chairman Powell reported no actions are coming out of the closed session.

ADJOURNMENT: Since there was nothing further to come before the meeting, on a motion by Reahm and seconded by Sarkos, it was moved to adjourn said meeting.
ROLL CALL: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21st, 2015 at 1930 hours.

Minutes Approved:

Lawrence Moore - Secretary

Ken Powell - Chairman

This is a brief summary of the meeting of the Harrison Township Fire Commissioners held on September 16, 2015 and should not be considered a verbatim transcript of the meeting.