

BOARDS OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MINUTES - MARCH 1, 2012

OPENING:

President Harry Carter called the regular meeting of the Joint Boards of Fire Commissioners to order this 1st day of March 2012, at 8:00pm, with a salute to the American Flag and a minute of silence for our Armed Forces.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the regular meeting of December 2011 were approved by the floor as read.

ATTENDANCE:

Roll call showed 17 Commissioners present and 8 absent. Chief Hotmar and Captain Lewis were also present for the meeting.

Newly Elected Commissioner:

Fire District # 1, Raymond (Toby) Roe

Fire District # 3, Louis Memmolo

Fire District # 5, Charles Davison

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

SPECIAL:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None

CHIEFS REPORT:

Chief Hotmar briefed the Boards on the following matters.

1. Chief Hotmar reminded the Boards that the Chief's Report would be presented only at the June meeting and as part of the end of the year report.
2. Chief Hotmar requested that if the Joint Boards minutes are emailed to the members prior to the meeting, can we dispense from reading them at the meeting. After a short discussion on same, the request was approved by the members present.
3. Captain Lewis advised the Boards that the communications equipment is presently operating without problems. He also reminded the Boards on upcoming regulations with respects to Narrowbanding radio frequencies and that premature Narrowbanding will cause problems in radio reception and Knox Box activation. It's recommended that Narrowbanding changes take place at the same time throughout the Districts. Captain Lewis also made note that the Communication Committee is scheduled to meet on March 19, 2012, 7:30PM, at Howell Police Headquarters.
4. Chief Hotmar recommended that the Joints Boards consider the establishment of a Communications Fund Account to address any failures, damages and or any outdated equipment replacements for the Howell -2 Communications Infrastructure

Equipment. As the system grows both in size and age, equipment will start to become outdated, needing repairs and or replacement which could cost in excess of \$10,000 dollars or more. Chief Hotmar recommend that an account be established for 2013 with each District depositing \$2500 the first year, \$1000 the second year, and \$500.00 each year thereafter. This account could be opened as the JBFC Communications Equipment Fund. After a short discussion on same from the members present, it was agreed that each District would discuss this at their District meetings and report back to the Executive Board. President Carter indicated that he would discussion same with their Board's Attorney as the legality of said account.

5. Chief Hotmar advised the Boards that at the February Executive Board meeting Commissioner Frank Biddle asked; what is the policy if any, for the new Knox Boxes equipped with a key pad that could be prograded with an override code to gain access to the key when tones will not activate the release. Chief Hotmar advised that presently there is no policy on same, because such programming creates a hole in our security protocol. Furthermore, before any override codes could be programmed, the Joint Boards would have to authorize same and a written policy would have to be established. For this reason, the matter is now up for discussion by the Joint Boards. After a discussion on same, it was agreed that each District would need to discuss this further with their Fire Company Chief Officers and Commissioners at the District level and bring information back via the Executive Board for future actions by the Joint Boards.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

01-03-2012 Reorganization:

President, Harry Carter
Secretary, Frank Biddle III

02-03-2012 Appointment of Liaison to the Planning/Zoning Board:

On a motion by Commissioner Robert Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Tom Ward the Boards on a vote of 17 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 8 absent, reappointed Commissioner Jeff Hodges at the Joints Boards representative to the Howell Township Planning/Zoning Boards. Chief Hotmar will notify the Planning/Zoning Board as to this appointment. This appointment will run from March 1, 2012 to March 7, 2013.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Chief Hotmar indicated that Steve Gerrity from Howell Police Dispatch has advised that WPCS is working on the pager activation problems facing Fire District # 2, and

believes that the problem has been found and a solution to resolve these pager issues is being developed. More information will be available at the March Executive Board meeting.

GOOD/WELFARE:

1. President Carter wanted the Districts to know that there is movement in Trenton to pass bills similar to that recently approved for the School Boards to have the Fire Commissioner elections moved to November and allow the Districts to adopt a budget, without voter approval, if same is kept to a 2% increase or less. Chief Hotmar further advised the Boards that Howell Township has already taken action to realign the voting polling locations to include the Fire District Boundaries.
2. All Fire District budgets passed for 2012.
3. Certificate of Service for Commissioner John Smith will be presented at the June 7nd meeting of the Joint Boards.
4. Next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2012, 7.30pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Commissioner Robert Donahue, seconded by Commissioner Art Esposito, with no further business coming before the Boards, the meeting was adjourned.

**NEXT MEETING, JUNE 7, 2012, 8:00pm, FIRE DISTRICT # 3,
SOUTHARD FIRE COMPANY**