

BOARDS OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MINUTES – DECEMBER 6, 2012

OPENING:

President Harry Carter called the regular meeting of the Joint Boards of Fire Commissioners to order this 6th day of December 2012, at 8:00pm, with a salute to the American Flag.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the regular meeting of September 2012 were approved by the floor as submitted.

ATTENDANCE:

Roll call showed 22 Commissioners present and 3 absent. Chief Hotmar and Captain Lewis were also present for the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Chief Hotmar read a request from Howell PAL looking for a donation of a utility truck, that they are in need of for their efforts in helping others as a result of Super Storm Sandy.

SPECIAL:

1. Township Manager Helene Schlegel address the Boards by thanking them for their continued cooperation and support and continued efforts in working with the Township on the Fire Bureau budget in this very tight financial atmosphere.
2. Mayor Elect William Gotto addressed the Boards as well by thanking them for their continued cooperation and support. He also updated them on forthcoming changes to the OEM reference re-organization, staffing, and response responsibilities. He addressed several questions from the Boards relating to Fire Districts, Fire Service and the rumor mill that seems to be alive and well throughout the Township.

Commissioner Kelly expressed his concern that the continued cooperation existing between the Fire Service and the OEM which has been established under the command of Ron Sanasac and Chief Hotmar be preserved, with the new re-organization.

Commissioner Carter thanked both Manager Schlegel and Mayor Elect Gotto for addressing the Boards and remarked that the best form of communication is face to face, because letters and emails do not express feelings and can be construed incorrectly.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairman Roe reported that purchase of Fire Apparatus is now a NJ State Contract item.

CHIEFS REPORT:

Chief Hotmar briefed the Boards on the following matters.

1. All Fire Bureau operations are running smoothly and without issues at the present time.

2. Captain Lewis advised the Boards that the Communications Equipment for Howell Fire -2 is presently operating without problems, and Narrowbanding has been completed on all Howell Fire frequencies, except for County Fire 1, because we are waiting on the County's lead. He also updated the Boards on the tower damage to the radio tower behind the old Fire Bureau building as a result of Super Storm Sand. This tower supplied antennas for both Fire and Police backup systems. Plan are being studied and developed for both a temporary and permanent replacement plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. On a motion by Commissioner Wm. Donahue, seconded by Commissioner Eadicicco the Joint Boards approved the Non-Administrative Contract Agreement for the period beginning January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2015. (See attached adoption resolution and terms of agreement) This was approved on a vote of 22 yes, 0, no, 0 abstain and 3 absent
2. On a motion by Commissioner R Donahue, seconded by Commissioner Scarlato the public hearing on the Howell Fire Bureau 2013 budget was open for discussion. After three calls for public comment, without receiving any comments, the public hearing was closed on a motion by Commissioner Eadicicco, seconded by Commissioner Scarlato.
2. On a motion by Commissioner Eadicicco, seconded by Commissioner Davison the Joint Boards adopted the Fire Bureau's 2013 budget for \$365,225.00, which represents an increase of \$7,092.00. This increase reflects contractual salary obligations only. This was approved on a vote of 22 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 3 absent. (See attached budget)
3. On a motion by Commissioner R. Donahue, seconded by Commissioner Esposito the Joint Boards approved the 2013 salaries for the full time Fire Bureau staff on a vote of 22 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 3 absent. (See attached)

OLD BUSINESS:

None

GOOD/WELFARE:

1. Advertisement of the 2013 meeting dates, Executive Board and Joint Boards will be published in the APP after the first of the year, and posted on the Fire Bureau webpage.
2. Advertisement for the Commissioners elections mail in ballot will be published in the APP on Wednesday, December 12, 2012.
3. Next Executive Board meeting is Thursday, December 13, 2012, 7:30pm.
4. Distribution of 2012 pocket pal calendars.
5. Happy Holidays to all!

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Commissioner Robert Donahue, seconded by Commissioner Eadicicco, with no further business coming before the Boards, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

**NEXT MEETING, MARCH 7, 2013, 8:00PM, FIRE DISTRICT #1,
SQUANKUM FIRE COMPANY**