

Workshop Meeting, May 13, 2013

Chairman Raymond Equils called the meeting to order at 19:00 hours, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Equils then read the Opening Statement, noting this meeting was advertised on Sunday, December 30, 2013 in the Asbury Park Press and posted on two (2) municipal Bulletin Boards and in the firehouse, as required by the Open Public Meetings Act, commonly referred to as "The Sunshine Law."

Roll call was taken with Commissioners Equils, Kelly, Scarlato, and Stalling being present. Commissioner Eadicicco was absent due to working. It was also recorded that there were no chiefs or line officers present; and there were zero (0) members of the public present at the start of the meeting.

Also present was the board's Insurance agent, William Newberry of Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Service (VFIS) and Joseph Gilsean, the Chairman of the fire company's Membership Committee.

Due to the absence of Commissioner Eadicicco; Clerk Kelly began preparing the bills and vouchers, for recording by Vice Chairman Scarlato, and processing by Treasurer Stalling to print checks.

Clerk Kelly reported that per a request at a previous meeting; Mr. Newberry and he conducted a site/facility inspection tonight, prior to the start of this meeting; to allow for an evaluation of property loss coverage, due to the building repairs done recently insurance. A report and recommendations will be issued by VFIS for review and possible action by the board.

Chairman Equils turned the floor over to Mr. Newberry for a review of the district's insurance policies & coverage, as requested by the board. Policies reviewed included: General Liability, Accident & Sickness; and Worker's Compensation. Among the many items covered by Mr. Newberry were the following items of special interest:

Automobile/fleet policies provide no coverage for any person riding as a passenger in one of the Command (P.O.V.) vehicles. Driver is covered under the Vehicle's "P.I.P." clause, but this does not extend to riders or passengers. Riders and passengers would have to rely on their own personal insurance, as there is no immediate medical coverage or allowance, with the institution and resolution of a lawsuit against the district.

General Liability provides a maximum of \$5,000.00 for Medical Expenses, if injured on the property or in the building. However, if costs of injury exceed that amount, injured party must institute a lawsuit to seek greater compensation. If the party accepts the \$5,000.00, then they have limited themselves to that amount and cannot seek a greater compensation.

Any class of membership injured on the property or in the building can seek additional compensation for injury through a claim against the Accident & Sickness policy. This would also apply to Active Firefighters injured in non-firematic activities, which are not generally or usually covered under the terms of the in force Worker's Compensation Policy.

Several questions were asked by those assembled and answered by Mr. Newberry. One regarded commanders using apparatus insured for a Declared Value versus Book Value for command or P.O.V. use. It was noted that it is permissible, but if damaged, it could complicate settlement of claims.

With the review being completed, Chairman Equils thanked Mr. Newberry for his presentation and Mr. Newberry left the meeting at 20:04 hours, followed by Mr. Gilsean at 20:05 hours.

Commissioner Stalling questioned the present practice of allowing Probationary Firefighters who have not completed and passed Firefighter I to "Scott Up." Most commissioners felt this was not a good practice and should be looked at.

This begat another discussion, on what appears to be a growing need for the board to develop and implement some formal policies, for operations in the district. All felt policies addressing the board's operations as well as the fire company and its line officers are needed. Board members felt this should probably become a task after the current truck committee work is completed.

CRITICAL CORRESPONDENCE: Clerk Kelly reported the following:
Notice from the IRS regarding a March 2012 Quarterly Filing;

Hose Testing Report from FailSafe Hose Testing.

Page 2.

OLD BUSINESS: It was noted that an EXECUTIVE SESSION will be needed to address 2 separate PERSONNEL ISSUES. Third PERSONNEL/MEDICAL ISSUE is on hold pending report from Mr. Jay C. Sendzik, Esq., the board's attorney.

Board members also expressed the need to get the attorney's report on non-enrollment and non-payment issues with the state pension plans for the existing commissioners.

Treasurer Stalling also noted this month's bank statement showed an electronic debit to NJ-PERS in the amount of \$698.00 for which he has not received a receipt.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business was presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT Following the completion of the voucher and check entry by Treasurer Stalling, he reported bills totaling \$11,693.76, requiring a transfer of \$15,000.00. These amounts agreed with the calculations prepared by Vice Chairman Scarlato.

Treasurer Stalling also reported a transfer of \$20,000.00 into the Payroll Account.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted on a motion by Commissioners Kelly and Scarlato, and passed unanimously by the board.

GOOD AND WELFARE On behalf of the board, Chairman Equils thanked Asst Engineer John Thompson for arranging for the West Long Branch and Sea Bright Fire Departments bringing their apparatus to the last Truck Committee Workshop.

PUBLIC COMMENT If any firefighters were present, they were no recorded. However there were zero (0) members of the public being present, and there were no other comments offered.

ADJOURNMENT This concluded the business for the workshop, so a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioners Kelly and Stalling, and passed by the board. The meeting closed at 21:04 hrs. Respectfully Submitted,

Robert J. Kelly
Clerk of the Board

RJK/rjk

05/13/2013