

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Gloucester Township Fire District # 4 was held on Wednesday October 21, 2015 in the office of the Board of Fire Commissioners. This meeting has been properly advertised according to the State of New Jersey Sunshine Laws.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Coucoules (here) Commissioner Stout (here)
Commissioner McCann (here) Commissioner Simone (here)
Commissioner Vannoni (here)

Attendees: Fire Official P. Urso, Chief J. Vannoni, FF B. O Conner, FF F. Reiss, FF W. Spain, FF J. Stott, Solicitor D. Carlamere

Motion by Commissioner Simone, second by Commissioner Coucoules to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of September 16, 2015. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Coucoules, second by Commissioner Simone to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes of October 7, 2015. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Simone, second by Commissioner McCann to approve the Budget Meeting minutes of September 30, 2015. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Coucoules, second by Commissioner Simone to approve the Budget Meeting minutes of October 7, 2015. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Simone, second by Commissioner Coucoules to approve the Budget Meeting minutes of October 14, 2015. All in favor, motion carries.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Commissioner Stout said he received a letter of engagement from Bowman & Company, the auditors, to conduct the 2015 audit. He had some questions, so he said he will reach out to them.

Commissioner Coucoules said approximately a week ago , Ladder 84 after training , hit a pothole and broke the leaf spring on the officers side front. He had FAM Jones come in and check out how severe he thought it was. The leaf spring was ordered, and it was sent to Buds

Truck Repair in Deptford. The truck was also sent there today, the leaf spring that was replaced in 2008, the manufacture wants to know why it broke the way it did. They are sending a representative down tomorrow to make sure it is installed properly. It should be completed tomorrow, 10/22/2015.

He went on to say a very minor accident occurred last night with Engine 841, that is currently being investigated. Going out to training, the driver accidentally and unknowingly hit a guardrail. Minor damage to the apparatus, and there is an investigation ongoing, and he will give the report as soon as it becomes available. The trim on the truck will have to be replaced, and it was just the trim on the wheel well on the back of the truck. It was very minor, and no one else was involved.

Commissioner Simone said the generator for Station # 2 has been started, and he believes they are framing for the pad. Once the concrete cures, they will start to install the generator on the pad.

The windows, Aries is going to do the window job, and he is waiting to get a hold of them.

He said if the Board is allowed to do a limited space sprinkler system, and if we have a 2 inch water main coming in, the price would be \$16,000.00. If there is not a 2 inch water main coming into the building, he does not know how much it will be. If they go with the whole building, they will need a 4 inch main, and that price is \$31,000.00, plus the price of putting the 4 inch main in. He said rumor has it that we can out a limited system in, but he has not found that out yet. The proposal said they will engineer it, seal it and send it to the township. It would be 17 heads upstairs and the stairwell.

Commissioner Simone also said an ice machine for Station # 2 is \$2,600.00 installed.

Commissioner Vannoni stated there is \$20,000.00 left in Capital appropriations, in which \$17,000.00 will be used for the generator, he asked Commissioner Stout if they could use the \$3, 000.00 that remains for the ice machine.

Commissioner Stout asked how it was out in the budget.

Commissioner Vannoni said it is 5045-03.

Solicitor Carlamere said he did not think that qualified for Capital Outlays, he asked if there was another line item it could come out of.

Commissioner Stout said 5025-07.

Commissioner Coucoules said that was the sprinkler money.

Commissioner Vannoni said ok, well we can use \$3,000.00 out of it.

Commissioner McCann asked Commissioner Simone how much the generator will be installed.

Commissioner Simone said it will be under \$17,000.00. He said he has 2 quotes.

Commissioner McCann said you have 2 quotes in this office.

Commissioner Simone responded yes. He said he has the quote for \$17,000.00.

Commissioner McCann asked if that quote included everything, the pad, electrical work.

Commissioner Simone said yes, soup to nuts.

Commissioner McCann said Assistant Chief Maschke has posted the LOSAP lists in both stations on October 16th. Any questions by the membership should be received by November 16th. He said it should be ready to be approved at the November meeting, as long as there are not issues raised.

Commissioner McCann said the Open Public Records Council heard the Boards case on September 29, 2015. The report was received in the office on or about October 1, 2015, and they needed the Boards response within 5 days. He said Dave Carlamere as well as David Vannoni worked on getting the response to them within the 5 days, since he was out of town, Dave Carlamere prepared the response, and David Vannoni signed it in his absence.

Solicitor Carlamere said they also asked for a supplemental response and he got that out also.

Commissioner McCann said he wanted to bring something up about this in the closed session.

Commissioner Stout asked if after the regular Meeting tonight, if advertised, could the Board have a quick Budget Meeting. He would like everyone to go over the line items, as see what everyone would have left I their line items.

Commissioner Vannoni said we did not advertise for it.

Solicitor Carlamere said you could do it after the public portion of the meeting, bring it up as an agenda item, as long as this is a regular scheduled meeting, you can add things to the agenda.

Commissioner Stout said he just wanted to get a good concrete fund balance for next week's meeting.

Commissioner Vannoni said we are going to have a problem with line item 5022-01 Departmental Training. He said at some point there was some miss communication, and the Assistant Chief made a deal with people that they could go to training this year, with the understanding the Commission would reimburse them out of next year's budget. It is not something that we can do.

Commissioner Stout said we can go over that line item, and Bowleys office will take care of it. The issue is if we are \$4,000.00 over, where do we take \$4,000.00 from? There are line item transfers at the end, and these things happen from time to time. The idea is you cannot go over the entire Budget. Just keep in mind, that during the Audit, you will have to explain why that line item went over.

Solicitor Carlamere said you cannot intentionally over draw a line item, say to but something that you want to buy. If something unforeseen happens and you go over a line item, in December you do resolutions to do line item adjustments, where you have money to move in.

Commissioner Vannoni said with regards to our Drug and Alcohol testing, it was brought to his attention that there were issues with the policy, so therefore we have suspended for cause testing until we can get a comprehensive policy written. He said in addition to Cooper, he has reached out to Washington Township and they use someone else, so he will reach out to them. Clerk Fini reached out to Life Care and they do provide 24/7 Drug Testing. Linda from Life Care will get back to us with some numbers. He said from what he understands, they will either send someone here, or we could take someone there to do drug testing.

Commissioner Mccann asked where that policy stands.

Commissioner Vannoni said we still have a zero tolerance drug and alcohol policy. We will continue to test applicants and new members as we did in the past. For now, post-accident testing and cause testing is suspended. He said John Carlin brought up some good points, and we will make sure all is covered before it is implemented.

CORROSPONDENCE

Commissioner Vannoni said they have the final report on the radio grievance. He said he would like to discuss it in closed session before it is made public.

CLERK' REPORT

None

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Stout said everyone has a bill list in front of them. The bill total for tonight is \$63,002.46

Motion by Commissioner Stout, second by Commissioner McCann to pay the bills totaling \$63,002.46. All in favor, motion carries.

Commissioner Stout reminded the Board to go over the Profit and Loss Sheets to identify any problems. He would appreciate it if after the meeting, anyone who has issues could explain to him where the issues are so they can discuss them.

FIRE OFFICIALS REPORT

Attached

CHIEFS REPORT

Chief Vannoni reported that Britney Swan, as well as Melanie Kemery have resigned from Blackwood Fire Company. He said even though he does not always submit a report he feels as though the Board of Fire Commissioners are kept well aware of what is going on, as he and the Operations Commissioner are in touch with each other throughout the month.

He said with regard to 841's crash he wants to make sure these points were made clear:

1. There were no injuries.
2. No damage to any other property.

With regard to the LOSAP List, it was posted on October 16, 2015.

He said as you are aware, we are working in cooperation with Fire District # 2 on the Assistance to the Firefighters Grant, which would change our self-breathing apparatus. He said he is still waiting on a ball park figure from FEMA for the price, so we can make sure we have the correct amount for the matching funds that will be required.

Chief Vannoni said they had 4 new tower operators trained over the Columbus Day weekend, LT. Joe Imelinski , FF Dan Imelinski, FF UFD William Prendergast, FF James Cape. They all completed tower operators training.

Chief Vannoni said parts for the Tillman Retarder for 841 have been ordered and we are still waiting for them to come in.

Chief Vannoni said in regard to the EMT Payments, for several years now we have not had anyone go through EMT Training. Now, with 4 people taking EMT Training there has been a change in the system, as it used to be a State Fund. He said when he was made aware of it, he went to the Assistant Chief who said he had discussed it with a member of the Board. A new policy needs to be in place to prevent this from occurring again.

Chief Vannoni said Blackwood Fire Company has been to numerous natural gas leaks , and as everyone is aware, there are numerous contractors throughout the Fire District. He believes they are up to 7 or 8 gas leaks. He asked the Board if there is any way we can bill the contractors for the time spent on the gas leaks, time and apparatus. Every time they are on one of these it is for an extended amount of time.

Chief Vannoni with regard to the sprinkler system at Station # 2, he said there were three things he asked from the Board when that project started.

1. Rear Doors
2. Full sprinkler system in the entire building.
3. Ensure our people could sleep there.

At this point he has gotten a door.

He said his comments from back then were if you can't do those things, then there is no point in spending the money for renovations out there. He said his point is, and he wants this on record, that as the Fire Chief he prefers a full sprinkler system. He said as a Fire Department we should be setting an example.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Commissioner Vannoni said the Direct Install program is complete, and all the lighting has been replaced. He said the air conditioners have both been replaced. They will be picking up the permits for the building in the next week or so, so that project will be moving forward.

Motion by Commissioner Simone, second by Commissioner Stout to approve all the reports. All in favor, motion carries.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner McCann said in reviewing the minutes from the last meeting , he asked Commissioner Vannoni how we are moving on the Cooper University Program.

Commissioner Vannoni said on the EAP Program, he is ready to move forward, but he would like to talk to the other company that Washington Township uses, and he would like to see how they differ. He went on to say that we tried to have a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing the other night after that run, and contacted the Mercury Team, which is a State Volunteer Program, for that type of incident and they forgot and just did not show up.

Commissioner McCann said the Cooper Program was \$50.00 per employee.

Commissioner Vannoni said up to 30 people is a flat rate of \$1500.00, and anyone over 30 is \$50.00 per person. That covers you and your family.

Commissioner McCann asked what we are going to do about the missing heaters at Station #2 when the weather gets cold.

Commissioner Simone said there is only one missing, and we will be fine.

Commissioner McCann asked if the Power DMS was included in the budget information that you gave us the other night.

Commissioner Vannoni said yes, it was included.

Commissioner McCann said where are we with the light for the flag pole at Station # 2.

Commissioner Simone said he does not have the light yet.

Commissioner McCann asked if we have a flag.

Commissioner Simone said yes we have a flag.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner McCann said in listening to Commissioner Simone's earlier report, he thought there was enough money in the budget for a full sprinkler system in 2016.

Commissioner Simone said no.

Commissioner McCann said he thought it was \$31,000.00.

Commissioner Simone said no, it was \$31,000.00 plus the price to add in the 4" line. Plus the \$300.00 - \$400.00 a month for standby water.

Commissioner McCann said so we have enough in the budget to install the sprinkler system, but we do not have enough for the stand by water bill. So, we would have to increase our utility water at Station # 2 to accommodate that.

Commissioner Simone said correct.

Commissioner McCann said so that money is all in next year's budget as well as engineering fees to design it.

Commissioner Simone said that is all in the proposal, the engineering fees are included in the proposal.

Commissioner McCann said we cannot currently do it. But in the proposed 2016 Budget, that money is in there to do it, if it is only \$31,000.00 plus the 4" main.

Commissioner Simone said yes. That is the only price I do not have in concrete yet is the 4" main.

Commissioner McCann said well it should not be more than \$10,000.00.

Commissioner Simone said it will be closer to \$25,000.00.

Commissioner Coucoules said it cost me \$3,000.00 just to get a block of ice out of a down tube.

Commissioner Simone said he was told it is approximately \$250.00 per foot. So if you have 100 feet that is \$25,000.00.

Commissioner Vannoni said well let's get a price on that.

Commissioner Simone said he was trying to get a roundabout figure.

Commissioner Stout asked if he had spoken to the water company yet.

Commissioner Simone said he has not. He said FAM Urso told him that the businesses he had spoken to told him it is between \$300.00 to \$400.00 per month for standby water.

Commissioner Vannoni said talk to Anthony Miller. He said he is getting this in writing. Apparently for the fire company, they worked a deal where they are putting a meter in, but the water company is going to write it off as unbillable water. Now, maybe we could work the same deal out at Station # 2. It might be something worth looking into.

Commissioner McCann said the Chief referenced the accident last night, and he wanted to remind the Chief that the report will have to come to the Board within 10 days, per policy.

Commissioner McCann said he has spoken to Commissioner Stout and Clerk Fini, if you look at the profit and loss sheet, and you see \$369.00 it should be on the line below it. Jeff Bowley was supposed to move that down 3 weeks ago. If you look on the next page 5010-05 group health, no money has been taken out of that, but if you look at 5011-05 group health, that has been over spent. These line items are not flowing properly to where they should be going. Bowleys office has assured us that they will get that properly posted.

Commissioner Simone said the auxiliary wanted him to ask the Board if they could have Breakfast with Santa at Station # 2. He said he was not sure, so he is asking.

Commissioner Vannoni asked if it would be in the engine bay.

Commissioner Simone said yes, and they are going to cook on grills outside, they will not cook upstairs at all.

Chief Vannoni said the problem is going to be where we put our apparatus. If it's cold, we cannot park our apparatus outside. As long as it is above freezing he does not have a problem with it.

Commissioner Simone said he told them they would have to cook everything downstairs.

Commissioner Simone brought up the purchase of the ice machine for Station # 2.

Commissioner McCann questioned if a water line will need to be installed.

Chief Vannoni said it includes everything.

Motion by Commissioner Simone, second by Commissioner Coucoules to purchase an ice machine for Station # 2 for \$2600.00 including installation. All in favor, motion carries.

Commissioner Coucoules said he has an application from Christopher Burlap, who is a past Chief of Lindenwold Fire Company. He was there for 25 years, and he now resides on Cleveland Avenue. His paperwork is all in order, and he has passed all his medical and background checks.

Motion by Commissioner Coucoules, second by Commissioner McCann to accept the application of Christopher Burlap, with the 6 month probation period. All in favor, motion carries.

Commissioner Vannoni said car 847 is reaching the end of its useful life. It is starting to cost money in repairs. The paint has chipped away. He said it is not practical for what it is used for, and it cannot carry any real equipment, shovels racks etc. He said he started to look into the possibility of replacing it. He was approached by Fire Official Urso with some suggestions. It is his understanding that it would be an out of cap purchase that would be a separate question on the February election. It would require a special meeting in order to approve that. We would have to fill out an affidavit, and post it in a whole lot of places, hold a special meeting approve it, and then get it on the ballot for next year.

Solicitor Carlamere said if you hold a special meeting, properly advertise it and do a show of hands vote, you do not have to put it on the February 2016 ballot. You will be approving the purchase as well as the dollar amount to be spent. You need to know how much it is going to cost, and how you are going to pay for it. You must approve it this year, to purchase it next year.

Commissioner Vannoni said the reason he is bringing it up tonight, Fire Official Urso got him some basic numbers from other companies that have done it recently. He has some preliminary numbers, and he would like to know how the rest of the Board feels about it. He wanted to take it to the truck committee, and he did not want to waste their time if the Board is not in favor of it. This would make all of the support vehicles fairly new, before we had to worry about replacing or refurbishing the major apparatus in the years to come.

Commissioner McCann said you said roughly \$45,000.00, and even though it is out of cap, who pays for it? The residents of Fire District # 4. That means we are going to raise our budget \$45,000.00 more, and ask the resident to pay out of their pocket. Even though it is out of cap, we are still asking the residents to pay for it. It will affect the amount of taxes they pay.

Commissioner Vannoni said he understands that, and this is not something we have to do tomorrow, he is not in a huge rush. The old FAM's car died, we were stuck and we had to get this current car because we did not have any other choice. He said he is trying to stay ahead of the curve, so we do not get put in that position.

Commissioner McCann said just to clean that up a little bit, the car it replaced was a rear wheel drive car, just as this was. This current car came because it was the only one on state bid at the time. It did not replace a 4 wheel drive vehicle.

Commissioner Vannoni said he just feels a though it is impractical in the emergency services to have rear wheel drive vehicle, a sled in inclement weather. He would like to get at least a nod of approval to get the ball rolling. He would like to through it to Pete and the committee to get us some numbers.

Commissioner Stout asked Commissioner Vannoni if it is a need or a want.

Commissioner Vannoni said it started as a want, but it is slowly becoming a need.

Commissioner Stout asked how many miles does it have on it?

Fire Official Urso said it has roughly 56,000 miles on it.

Commissioner McCann asked where are we going to keep it? If it is kept here at the Station will it be kept outside?

Commissioner Vannoni said we could buy a shelter at some point in time.

Commissioner Coucoules said why would we need a shelter? It is a utility vehicle just like all the other utility vehicles.

Commissioner Simone asked if we will have more room when the renovations are done.

Commissioner Vannoni said no.

Commissioner Vannoni said there will be more room at Blackwood Clementon Road Station. He thinks all of that is in the future if we get it.

Commissioner McCann asked if there is any thought to assign the other Durango? So then we would maximize the use of both. Currently one gets used a lot and the other just sits.

Commissioner Vannoni said it does not just sit, we use it to go to training and things like that. He said his goal would be to have it equipped with equipment. He said we do not have the ability to put the equipment in a car. Rakes mounted in beds, some lights that would aid the Fire Official in his investigations.

Commissioner Stout said he had one more question, and he said obviously he is not really for it, at \$45,000.00 that would be a 2% increase in taxes to pay for that vehicle. He thinks that is rough in this day and age when people who see the tax bill may not appreciate it. How old is the vehicle, 9 to 10 years old?

Commissioner Vannoni said it is a 2002 so it is 13 years old.

Commissioner Stout said ok, so it has 56,000 miles on it so that means we put 4,000 miles a year on it. He said he does not see where it is a maintenance problem at this point. He said he is looking at the big picture.

Commissioner Vannoni said he is not saying it has cost huge amounts in maintenance. It has started to cost money, the alternator had to be replaced, and there were a few other issues with it. Again he does not believe it is a practical vehicle. He said because it has low mileage, maybe we could get some extra money for it.

Commissioner Stout said a fire station that does not have a sprinkler system in is not practical either, because members cannot sleep there. He said we have restraints, and we have to do things over time.

Commissioner Vannoni said we are budgeting next year to do the sprinkler system and how long do we keep pushing it off. What happens when we push this off to next year, to the next year.....and then it is time to refurb the engine? In his opinion the Board of Fire Commissioners has been very reactive to problems, and he is trying to get the Board on some type of schedule to replace things, so we are not doing it all at once. This would get us to have all the utility vehicles new, and then we can move on to the major apparatus, as we are looking to do with the truck committee.

Commissioner McCann said according to the Profit and Loss we have spent \$115.00 on that car this year.

Commissioner Coucoules said are you just asking to look into the prices of vehicles?

Commissioner Vannoni said yes and no. He is asking if we have general support of it, and he does not want to involve the truck committee, and send Pete out to get numbers if no one is going to support it.

Commissioner Coucoules said send people out, aren't they on State bid?

Commissioner Vannoni said yes they are, but then you have light packages. He said the truck is only \$30,000.00 to \$31,000.00 but then the extras, light packages, lettering, console boxes and tool boxes.

Solicitor Carlamere said keep in mind it is your special meeting you have to set a time for, and that has to be done November or December, otherwise you will not be able to purchase this in 2016.

Commissioner McCann said we have to move forward on it to get a price, or we will not be able to do anything with it next year. We will have to make sure the funds are in the budget, so you will have to have a price. Maybe we get the figures now, and if the budget works out, then we will have the special meeting. Then we wait until next year and decide when we want this coming into the Station. Do we want to wait until after the renovations, like November, do we want to get it in March so it sits outside the rest of the winter; we have all those options to worry about as to when we buy it. If you do not have anyone out gathering the information we will be behind the 8 ball trying to purchase this.

Commissioner Coucoules asked if it is set as to what we are looking at in a vehicle. A V-6 engine is a lot cheaper than a V-8 engine.

Commissioner Vannoni said we can look for whatever we want.

Solicitor Carlamere said at the special meeting you do not have to be specific about engine size, you are going to buy a Fire Official Vehicle, and the price. Once the voter approves the price, you cannot exceed that price.

Commissioner McCann said and if they approve the price, and we find we cannot get in in the budget, then it was a special meeting held for no reason.

Solicitor Carlamere said once you put it out to the voters, and they approve it, it must be included in the budget.

Commissioner Vannoni asked when do we send the budget to Trenton.

Commissioner Stout said there is a deadline; he believes it is December 11, 2015, at the latest. It is actually December 22, 2015.

Commissioner Vannoni said we would have to approve this at a special meeting before that.

Commissioner McCann said he has another suggestion, wait until January, start to research the numbers, find what you want, hold a special meeting next year, and you buy it in 2017. While the building is under construction and the vehicles are sitting outside, it will be the old vehicle.

Commissioner Vannoni said he is with Mike, it does not bother him that it sits outside.

Commissioner McCann said he thought Commissioner Vannoni justification was the old vehicle has the paint peeling because it sat outside.

Commissioner Vannoni said ok the Budget has to be submitted by December 22, 2015, would it be too late to have the meeting December 16th.

Commissioner Stout said he wants to have the budget over and done and submitted by mid to late November.

Commissioner McCann said the State has to look at our preliminary budget, and stamped that approved before we can have our final reading of the budget. Then it goes back to them, and it has to stamped approved by them so we can present it to the voters. They tell us all the time,

they are working with a reduced staff, and if you don't get in in early, you will not get it back in time.

Solicitor Carlamere said from last year, they started to put questions to the District. If they see a line item for the purchase of a vehicle, they may ask how you got that approved. They want to make sure, and they were hoping that a lot last year, in several Districts, and they were then told the money has to come out and you cannot spend that money. If you do not approve this properly they will make you take it out.

Commissioner Vannoni asked if the Board can wait to send the Budget up until after the November 18th meeting.

Commissioner Stout said yes, if we are all on board with putting this in the Budget, then we can send it up and have a meeting whenever.

Motion by Commissioner Simone, second by Commissioner Coucoules to hold a special meeting at 6:30, prior to the regular meeting, to vote on funding of a new fire prevention vehicle, by the registered voters of Fire District # 4. All in favor, motion carries.

Solicitor Carlamere stated it could be a show of hands vote.

Commissioner McCann asked if he could go back to old business. He asked Commissioner Simone if he had the proper amount of quotes for the window replacement.

Commissioner Simone said he has 3 quotes, and that Aries will be the company putting in the windows.

Commissioner Vannoni asked if Pete could work with the truck committee on getting prices for the truck.

Solicitor Carlamere stated that the price must be reflected on the advertisements for the meeting.

GOOD AND WELFARE

None

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

FF W. Spain said he thinks the committee must support the Chiefs request for sprinkler systems and a complete sprinkler system. He said he did not favor spending all that money on Station # 2, but now you have spent all that money and you are not finishing the job. Spend the \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00 dollars and finish the job.

Commissioner Vannoni said the Board is attempting to put a sprinkler system in, and Commissioner Simone has gotten one quote already. We are working on it.

Commissioner McCann said that would have to go to bid, because it would be around \$56,000.00.

Solicitor Carlamere said it had to be an advertised bid.

FF W. Spain said we have 4 small vehicles now, correct? Why can't we use one of the Durango's for the Fire Official?

Commissioner Vannoni said that was already discussed by Commissioner McCann.

FF W. Spain said he does not consider that a very good response. It is a response by someone who wants to buy a new vehicle.

Solicitor Carlamere said the Board voted for the special election, so the voter can vote no at that meeting.

Commissioner Vannoni said and we already discussed that, the use of one of the Durango's.

FF W. Spain said he thinks you should re-discuss it. You are talking about spending \$40,000.00 and you have all kinds of problems balancing budgets. What will the final figure be?

Commissioner Vannoni said we do not know yet, but you are more than willing to come to one of our budget meetings.

FF W. Spain said he did but he did not hear a final figure.

Commissioner Vannoni said that is because we are still working on it.

FF W. Spain asked if it will be more expensive than last year.

Commissioner Vannoni said yes.

FF W. Spain said how much

Commissioner Vannoni said we do not know we are still working on it.

FF W. Spain said you had better sharpen your pencils.

F. Reiss, Local 3249 Shop Steward said he will be off on the 5th on November, and asked if the labor committee meeting can be rescheduled to another day. Also, he wanted to remind Commissioner Simone about the light on the flag pole. He said he understands the Board is doing their due diligence monitoring the budget and being fiscally responsible. He asked the Chief how long he fought to get out of the Bronco and into a Durango, and one magically appeared into 2, and then the suburban died at that turned into an F250. He said he respects the Chairman's attitude on being progressive on getting the vehicle replaced before it dies. He said the board has historically treated the budget like it is bags of money, that you have to sit on as long as possible, put it in the budget and spend it. If the people vote it down, so be it. We know it will mean an increase in tax dollars, but the Fire District taxes are pretty low considering. We have talked in the past about the closing of the County Fire Marshalls office means the local Fire Official is tasked with more work. We never had to dig as many fires as we do now, and you can fact check me, but it states that every official that digs a fire should have the clothing removed and not in the vehicle with the official. It is not a good practice to have your fire gear or jump suite riding in the back seat. You can say it could go in the trunk, but with that vehicle it is out of space. It is dated and on its last leg. He is not a big bells and whistles guy, but he is supporting this project. You have an official, who will be doing this job for 20 or more years, and if you short change him now and he ends up with god forbid cancer, because he is driving around with gear in the back of a crown vic. The Durango's are not better in that, and studies have shown digging fire scenes are more dangerous as far as getting cancer. Plus we have zero digging equipment; we have a shovel that is not user friendly. The Fire Officials office is the only source of revenue in this Fire District. To kick it while it is down is unfair.

Fire Official Urso said just to piggy back on FF Reiss's comments, next year with the opening of the outlets we will be bringing in an additional \$7,000.00 to \$7500.00 in non-life hazard fees, plus Fire District # 4 was one of only 2 in Gloucester Township where the ratables are actually going up. He said it is an expense but that there will be money coming in to help offset the costs.

Commissioner McCann said so with the \$7,000.00 a year in increased revenue it will take 7 years to pay for the vehicle. Can we have the Treasurer explain to everyone what the Tax Collector explained to him concerning the ratables.

Commissioner Stout said he met with Chuck Palumbo last week and he explained to him the Outlets did get an abatement which is for 5 years, it is zero the first year, 20, the second, 40 the third, 60 the fourth and 80 the fifth, with 100% not coming to us until the 6th year. We do not get a dime from the outlets, all the money in the first 5 years goes to the Township. We were under the impression we were going to get 20%, 40%, 60%, but the Township gets all that money. That is how Chuck Palumbo explained it to me.

Commissioner McCann said the only increase in the ratables will be the farmland going to commercial land.

Commissioner Stout said we already have gotten that.

Motion by Commissioner McCann, second by Commissioner Coucoules to adopt a resolution to go into closed session to discuss the radio grievance as well as the OPRA request.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Coucoules (yes) Commissioner Stout (yes)
Commissioner McCann (yes) Commissioner Simone (yes)
Commissioner Vannoni (yes)

Back from Closed Session

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Coucoules (here) Commissioner Stout (here)
Commissioner McCann (here) Commissioner Simone (here)
Commissioner Vannoni (here)

Solicitor Carlamere stated during the closed session they discussed the OPRA proceedings that are still on going. There is no resolution of that so that will remain in closed session. The second dealt with the radio grievance.

Commissioner Vannoni said they received the PERC decision from Mr. Restaino in reference to the radio grievance, and we had it interpreted in terms we could understand from Attorney Howard Long. He sent us an outline as to what the Boards response should be. In addition, he has drawn up a policy with the assistance of Howard Long that will cover the particular point of providing a portable radio for every firefighter who responds to a fire or emergency call, and that radio will designate where every firefighter is during an emergency situation. Additionally the Board will be paying out \$200.00 to each employee, as required by the arbitrator's decision, for the 4 career staff and is a total of \$800.00.

Motion by Commissioner Coucoules, second by Commissioner Simone to accept the policy and to accept the recommendations of Mr. Restaino.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Coucoules (yes) Commissioner Stout (yes)
Commissioner McCann (no) Commissioner Simone (yes)
Commissioner Vannoni (yes)

Commissioner Vannoni said additionally in regards to the OPRA request, something has been brought to the attention of the Board, that Commissioner McCann had become custodian of the records. At the suggestion of Solicitor Carlamere, he will entertain a motion to make Clerk Fini custodian of the records with regards to OPRA requests.

Motion by Commissioner McCann, second by Commissioner Coucoules to appoint Clerk Fini custodian of the records for OPRA requests, effective immediately. All in favor, motion carries.

Chief Vannoni said the Board just adopted a policy on an operational matter, and he was wondering when he would be consulted on that.

Commissioner Vannoni said well you were consulted before the policy was enacted. He told the Chief he had spoken to him prior, and also on the phone just a little while ago.

Solicitor Carlamere told the Chief, that the Board must adopt this policy so they are in compliance with the arbitrator's findings.

Chief Vannoni asked if there is additional information so he can make sure the policy is followed.

Commissioner Vannoni said he will make a copy of the policy and submit it to the Chief.

Solicitor Carlamere said the policy reflects the findings of the arbitrator, as the Chairman indicated. The Board does not have a choice but to adopt that policy, based on that arbitration decision. The Board will communicate that to you.

Chief Vannoni said very good.

Commissioner Stout asked all the Commissioners to look at their line items to see what they will have left.

There was a discussion on the different line items.

With no further business to discuss.

Motion by Commissioner Simone, second by Commissioner McCann to adjourn. All in favor, motion carries.

DATED: OCTOBER 21, 2015

BY: _____

Michael Simone, Secretary

