

# BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

MINUTES OF  
FEBRUARY 23, 2009

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order by Vice President Reu at 8:03 p.m. Vice President Reu announced that the meeting is being held in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act". Public Notice of this meeting was mailed to the Clerk of the Township of Ocean and posted at the Oakhurst Firehouse on February 26, 2008, and advertised in The Coaster and in the Atlanticville on March 6, 2008.

After a salute to the flag, a moment of silence was observed.

## **ATTENDANCE:**

The following Board members were present: Thomas Reu, James Hiers, Scott Nelson, Russell Williams and Anthony Palmisano. Fire District Administrator Arthur Schenck, Fire Marshal Timothy Smith, Deputy Fire Marshal Chris Pujat, Maintenance/Repair Technician Michael Fiorentino and the Fire Department and First Aid Squad Officers were also present.

## **REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD FOR 2009:**

**VP Reu** - Congratulations to Commissioner Hiers on his reelection to the Board, and to Anthony Palmisano on his election to the Board. Thank you to all members and residents who came out to vote. The District's 2009 Budget was approved.

He asked Board Clerk Janice Hiers to please administer the Oath of Office to Commissioners Hiers and Palmisano.

**Board Clerk Janice Hiers** - Administered the Oath of Office.

**VP Reu** - The Board thanks Clerk Janice Hiers for the nice job done on the Election and all related matters.

**VP Reu** - Called for nominations for Board President and Vice President for 2009:

**Nomination for President;** Hiers nominated Nelson. Reu Seconded.

Questions? None. Roll call

vote of Reu, Hiers, Nelson, Williams and Palmisano was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**Nomination for Vice President;** Reu nominated Hiers. Williams Seconded. Questions? None.

Roll call vote of Reu, Hiers, Nelson, Williams and Palmisano was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**President Nelson** - We will continue with the regular order of Business:

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the January 26, 2009 meeting were read. Questions or comments? None. The minutes were unanimously accepted without change.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

The following items of correspondence were read for information:

**Incoming from:**

Mon Cty Sheriff's Office; Re: 2009 Dispatching Fee

**EXPENSES:**

Vouchers totalling \$52,291.30 were read and presented by Commissioner Reu for payment. Reu motioned to pay all bills. Hiers seconded. President Nelson asked if there were any questions or comments on the bills. There were none. Roll call vote: Hiers, Williams and Palmisano voted in favor of the motion. Reu abstained from voting on the voucher payable to William Reu, and Nelson abstained from voting on the voucher payable to Oceanside Services. Both voted in favor of paying all other bills. All Vouchers were approved for payment.

**DISTRICT NO. 1 ORGANIZATIONS' REPORTS:**

**Assistant Chief D. Skinner** reported 52 activities for the month. Mutual Aid was given one time. Average Manpower Response was 15. Average Response Time was :05:37. Total Manhours were 241.96. He presented the application for new Firefighter Miguel Guarda, which was accepted by the Board.

**FD Lt. J. Morrow** reported that the new member, Miguel Guarda, also a member of Long Branch FD, has received training that allows him to ride the apparatus.

**Fire Marshal Smith** reported 158 Inspections, including 30 State Registered Establishments, revealing 32 Violations, and 2 Investigations were conducted during the month. Five CO calls were followed-up. 46 Smoke/CO Detector inspections were conducted and \$1,790.00 in fees were collected. Two OPTICOM Emitters were sent for repair; 1 was repaired and 1 was replaced under warranty. He advised that Mapping has been installed in the vehicle computers. He and Chris attended a class on the new ID Card System. He reported that the new Kohls Store is due to open in April. Oakhurst Animal Hospital is due to be occupied soon, as is the Kids of America school on Route #35, and the Fiore Funeral Home on Monmouth Road. The new building at 802 West Park Avenue is being occupied now. He advised that the new Hydrant Ordinance is still being worked on. He noted that total fire calls in 2008 totaled 597; down from 684 in 2007; with 98 call so far this year.

**Deputy Fire Marshal Pujat** reported that he was able to get a room in downtown Indy for FDIC.

**FAS Lt. D. Willms** congratulated Commissioners Hiers and Palmisano on their election to the Board. He thanked the Board for the new Safety Vests. He reported that the Squad's Annual Dinner will be on April 18.

**FAS Sgt. L. Degurski** reported that the Squad has been having standby crews each weekend for one month now. She thanked Mike Fiorentino for all of his help on FAS Calls.

**Maintenance/Repair Technician Fiorentino** congratulated Commissioners Hiers and Palmisano on their election to the Board, and to Scott Nelson on his election as President. He welcomed Tony Schaible back after his recent illness. He thanked the Board for the new Safety Vest.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Hiers** - As we noted at our last meeting, the engine in the Ahrens Fox Pumper siezed-up when being used by the FD at the Festival last August. We finally were able to locate a company that could take a look at it for us; Allied Diesel in Freehold. We had the truck towed there and they have determined that the number three rod has siezed to the crank shaft. The engine is non-repairable. The only option is to replace the engine. Several potential sources for this engine, located around the country, were contacted, as well as a search of the Internet. Only one engine was found. A factory new engine that is basically the same engine that is in the truck now. Being a 1955 Ahrens Fox truck, everyone is amazed that a factory new engine even exists. This one engine is in stock and available at [JobbersInc.com](http://JobbersInc.com), in Philadelphia, Pa.

About 10 days ago, Art, Tim, Mike and Bill Reu took a ride to Philadelphia to inspect the engine. Pictures were taken and brought to Allied Diesel to further compare the old and new engines. Bill Reu, the head mechanic at Allied Diesel, and the representative from JobbersInc spoke on the phone and all questions were answered to everyone's satisfaction, that this engine is an acceptable replacement.

The Board feels very strongly that it is important to replace this engine to get this truck back up and running. It is an important part of the history of the Fire Dept./District, it is in very good shape otherwise, and it has proven very beneficial over the years in the area of public education/public relations between the Fire Dept. and the community.

Being the only engine of it's type available, additional price quotes are not available. The price for this new engine is \$14,500.00, which we are advised is a reasonable price.

In consideration of the above, it was motioned to purchase the new replacement engine for our Ahrens Fox Pumper for the price of \$14,500.00. Williams

seconded. Questions? None. Roll call vote of Reu, Hiers, Nelson, Williams and Palmisano was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Thank you to Tim Smith and Bill Reu for sharing your knowledge and expertise in helping Art and Mike in researching this engine.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Hiers** - 2009 Meeting and Work Session Schedule. Each Commissioner has a copy. Motion to approve and advertise as required. Reu seconded. Questions? None. Roll call vote of Reu, Hiers, Nelson, Williams and Palmisano was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**Reu** - Engine 174 is at PL Custom having the front bumper accident repair made.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**See "Work Completed List" of M/R Tech Fiorentino also.**

**Equipment and Supplies - FD.....** Hiers

-Hoods and Gloves obtained. Re: OSHA review and stock.

-Double Male/Female adapters and Gate Valves received.

-New Defib unit received for 166.

**Equipment and Supplies - FAS.....** Willms, Reu

-Suction Unit; new battery received. Awaiting other missing parts.

**Maintenance of Apparatus.....** Reu, Schenck

-Ladder 190 Boom Service performed.

-199 preventive maintenance/service performed

-Ambulances 157 and 158 preventive maintenance/service performed

-Utility 138 preventive maintenance/service performed

-Engine 178 Annual Pump Service performed.

-Car 166 serviced, and repairs to Tire Pressure Sensors, and batteries replaced.

**Station Maintenance:**

**Station No. 1:.....** Williams

-Met with Engineer Re: Engine Room Floor.

**Station No. 2:.....** Hiers

-Basketball backboard and hoop replaced. Damaged by a Private School Bus.

**Insurance and Legal Liaison.....** Nelson

-Dan Skinner eye glasses claim finally paid by Ins Co.

-Check received for repair of MVA repair of 174. \$2,400.00 cost; received \$1,900.00 from our insurance company, that's less our \$500.00 deductible, which our insurance co. will collect from the other insurance company and then pass on to us.

-Insurance Claim filed for the Station No. 2 Basketball Backboard.

**Liaison to Township of Ocean.....** Reu

-Financial Disclosure Statements

-Questions or Comments ?

**Hiers** - Re: Cleaning Service: Neal was here today. Art old him to walk thru and tell us if he feels the building is being cleaned the way it should be. If he tells us it is ok, and we don't think so, then maybe we'll need to find a new cleaning co. He inspected the building and made many notes. He will be addressing. We'll give him one more chance before taking any other action.

**Williams** - Thanked the Officers for their efforts to get members, etc. to come out and vote in the District Election.

**Nelson** - Commented on the Election and Budget. Good planning and responsible actions by the current and past Boards has kept our Fire District Tax Rate low and stable, as seen in the recent newspaper articles noting the budgets and tax rates of other Fire Districts in the area.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur S. Schenck, Jr.  
Fire District Administrator

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