

**Board of Fire Commissioners
District 2, Howell Township
Adelphia, NJ 07710**

September 16, 2024

WORKSHOP MEETING

Notice of time, date, location, and agenda of the meeting, to the extent then known, was duly published in accordance with the requirements of the "Open Public Meeting Act" at least 48 hours in advance of this meeting by posting and by publication in the official newspapers of the district.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Robert Tice, at 7:00 PM.

A Roll call was taken showing George Patten, Frank Biddle III, Robert Tice, Kathleen Carter, and Peter Goldring present. The Chairman then led all in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

This meeting was called mainly to discuss the upcoming 2025 Fire District Budget. The Fire District plans to introduce the 2025 Fire District Budget at the November 4, 2024, meeting.

The first discussion was about starting a stipend program for Firefighters that meet certain requirements each year. Some points are listed below.

- 1) Firefighters would have to make 25% of Fire Calls to qualify in the first place.
- 2) Each Firefighter would be paid an amount to be determined. Somewhere between \$6.00 and \$12.00 per call.
- 3) Firefighters would have to have a current Firefighter Physical and be classified as interior or exterior support.
- 4) Any Firefighters that meet the requirements would receive a 1099 at the end of the year.
- 5) The program would run from November 1st to November 1st. Checks would be issued at the Fire Districts December meeting.
- 6) The Captain and Lieutenant would receive \$1,000.00 each. These positions are not supplied with a District Vehicle, as are the three Chief positions. They must use their personal vehicle.
- 7) The current \$500.00 annual stipend for the Chief would not continue.
- 8) The current \$25.00 a month stipend for the Captain and Lieutenant would not continue.
- 9) The cost of this program would come out of line A12-13. (personal equipment) We would leave the budgeted amount in that line the same as it has been for the last few years.
- 10) All Board members are in favor of some kind of stipend program.

The next topic of discussion was to replace our 2003 Ford F-350 pickup with a snowplow attachment. The current vehicle has been giving us issues for a while now. Some points are listed below.

- 1) Replace with the same truck as we just purchased for the New Chief Command Vehicle.
- 2) Have a Western Snowplow installed.
- 3) Total cost not to exceed \$120,000.00. Funds to come out of Capital Reserve.
- 4) Would need voter approval this year to purchase next year. We could have a Special Meeting before the end of October so we would know the results for the Budget Introduction in November.
- 5) The current vehicle would be sold with the current snowplow attachment.
- 6) A majority of the Board is in favor of this project.

Discussion was held on the Howell Radio Upgrade and what equipment we need to have the same functions as we did before the current work started. Some points are listed below.

- 1) Consolettes for both stations, with stacking racks for old Consolettes.
- 2) Antenna cabling and multiband antennas for both stations.
- 3) New scanners for both stations.
- 4) PA amplifier and speakers for both stations.
- 5) Large screen TV's, New PC's, and other equipment for both stations.
- 6) The total cost of all items was around \$106,000.00.

A long discussion was held on when we might have to have some Paid Firefighters on staff. Some points are listed below.

- 1) Number of Firefighters needed for shifts.
- 2) Which Fire Station would be staffed.
- 3) What accommodation would we have to provide?
- 4) How much the Fire District Budget would have to increase.

Discussion was held on the current Emergency Generator Replacement project and why The Township of Howell will not issue a permit to begin. The Contractor is waiting to start the installation.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM