

August 11, 2014

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 11, 2014

Board Chairman Charles Bauer called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Florence Township Fire District No. 1 to order at 6:30pm. After saluting the flag, the following statement of compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was read by the chairman:

“This meeting is being held in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting has been sent to and published in the Burlington County Times and the Register News. It has also been posted at the township municipal building and on the fire district’s website.”

ROLL CALL: Present – C. Bauer, S. Arnold, B. Mayer, A. Popso

Absent – W. Rzomp

Also in attendance were Solicitor Gaskill, Chief Scully, B/C Mullen, FM Richardson, IT Estelow, EMS Supervisor Taylor, Captain Wargo, Captain Gyenge, Lt. Motta, President Yurcho, Treasurer Jacoby, Trustee Houseworth, and several Company Members.

Minutes of the previous meeting: (Open Session) – July 14, 2014

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold, and seconded by Commissioner Mayer to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2014 meeting open session as distributed. Motion carried unanimously.

AUDITORS REPORT: (Rob Inverso)

1. None

SOLICITOR: Robert Gaskill

1. Nothing for open session.

BATTALION CHIEF/BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT: Kevin Mullen submitted report via email.

1. Commissioner Mayer commented she likes that B/C Mullen is doing one-on-one informal meetings to get everyone’s feedback on different things that are going on.

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION: Brian Richardson submitted report via email.

CHIEF REPORT: Keith Scully submitted his report via email.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel: Commissioner Popso reported that he and Commissioner Rzomp are going through the process with the Chief and Captain Gyenge for EMS Per diems. On the fire side, they are also working with the IAFF and are setting up a date to meet.

5-Year Planning:

1. B/C Mullen reported they will be starting up in the fall.

Insurance:

1. Commissioner Bauer reported we are doing real good. B/C Mullen was unable to attend the last meeting.

Purchases:

1. A list was emailed to the Board.

Policy:

1. B/C Mullen reported he has started to look through the 100 and 200 sections again with a target date of September or October to get some of them approved. Basically it is updating our current policy book.

Training: Marc Stranko submitted his report via email.

1. Several emails were sent out for the Epi-pen training. Marc and Captain Gyenge is working on that training. If they don't get the training, they can't use it. The department will accept certified training from elsewhere as long as it falls under the same Medical Director.
2. Commissioner Arnold commented that Marc had sent a lot of emails about CPR refreshers out at the county. They had previously talked about getting additional people trained as instructors for here because it would be a lot less expensive than sending people out to the county. B/C Mullen reported we have some instructors in-house. He will touch base with Marc. He might be reaching out to those who need it now and letting them know classes are out there. Commissioner Arnold inquired why we don't just have a refresher here instead of out at the county? Commissioner Mayer commented we just sent a couple to instructor training and B/C Mullen confirmed the same.

Truck/Equipment/Building & Grounds: Brian Richardson submitted his report via email.

1. Commissioner Mayer reported they had a Building & Grounds committee along with the 5-year Planning Committee that will be getting started back up in the coming weeks.

Fire Company Liaison:

1. Commissioner Mayer reported she met with them at their last meeting and had contract language sent to her from Mr. Gaskill and it was sent to the Board to review. Once she heard back from the Board it was sent to the Company and they did not agree to the proposed language. She had asked for suggestions from them and has received nothing.

Information Technology Report: Todd Estelow submitted report via email.

1. Commissioner Arnold reported the new framework for the website is up, part of the new look. There are some things that Todd is still waiting on, and some things he is still doing. It has a different format and explained some of the features and sections. Current items will be

on the front page and everything else will be archived. There will be different sections, a section for the Fire Company, a section for the FM and fire prevention, an EMS section, and he wants to have a Community section. If you get a chance, check it out.

Financial:

1. Commissioner Popso reported everything that B/C Mullen has submitted to him looks good. B/C Mullen reported that they will meet this week.

Radio:

1. Chief Scully reported all of the radios are installed in all of the vehicles.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

1. Justin Lehr – Active member. A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Popso to have the application take its usual course. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. B/C Mullen reported that the District is taking part in the New Jersey Civil Service Commission Firefighter Job analysis. Marc had to complete a 360 question survey on the whole testing process of firefighter and the job description. We were selected as one of the agencies. They had extended the firefighter list for two years so that they could do this. The next firefighter test may or may not be different depending on the outcome of questionnaire. B/C Mullen also received notice that the Battalion Chief's test may be redone too.
2. Commissioner Bauer read aloud a thank you letter to the Board of Fire Commissioners from Albert J. Jacoby thanking them for supporting the line officers and training division and sending FF Paul Wright, FF Adam Schoen, FF Justin Riley, and Past Chief Albert J. Jacoby to the Firehouse Expo in Baltimore July 15th through 17th, 2014. They attended live Engine Company hands-on training where they participated in evolutions of automobile fires, two-floor structure fire response with a limited crew, thermal imaging/and search, and flashover training and simulators. They agreed that they all learned techniques and methods that will make our department more efficient and safe. There were two other departments from Burlington County in our class, and was proud to say we had more from our department than both of those departments combined. They also attended classroom that detailed topics of Flow Path Management (tactical ventilation), 30 Ways to Jump-Seat Ready (preparation to personal equipment and positive fire-ground attitude where the main focus), and Investigating the Smell of Smoke. During the Expo they were able to see the most current equipment available and speak to various vendors. They spent a fair amount of time speaking to SCBA manufacturers learning about the new standards and significant changes related to SCBA. They also entered numerous drawings for equipment, services, etc., and were lucky enough to win a training package from Digital Combustion worth \$945.00. The package includes software that allows images taken of buildings or a response area to be downloaded and automated graphics of smoke, fire, and explosions can be added. The package will be turned over to the Line Officers and Training Division so that it can be incorporated in future training opportunities. Please continue to support this and other training opportunities as the residents are the ultimate beneficiaries of the knowledge and abilities of our department. Respectfully submitted, A. J. Jacoby, FF/EMT.

Commissioner Arnold commented that it is really good that we have people going down there and hopefully next year there will be even more, even if we have to increase the budget for it. Look at what they are bringing back.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Mayer and seconded by Commissioner Arnold to pay the bills as presented, and the PSE&G bill for this month. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills List dated August 8, 2014	\$87,808.27
Additional Bills	
Eye Glass Reimbursement - B. Richardson	\$200.00
Central Jersey Equipment, LLC.	\$332.02
Comcast Business	\$453.85
East Coast Emergency Lighting - Inv 6576	\$1,986.12
East Coast Emergency Lighting - Inv 6577	\$1,986.12
Lucas Ford Motor Company	\$953.01
Napa Auto Parts	\$21.92
Albert A Jacoby - Firehouse Expo Reimbursement	\$3,320.80
Paul Wright - Firehouse Expo Reimbursement	\$30.57
Sub Total	\$9,284.41
TOTAL	\$97,092.68

TREASURERS REPORT:

1. The following report was submitted by the Treasurer for approval.

Treasurers Report – Period Ending July 31, 2014	
Beginning Cash Balance (7/1/2014)	\$371,127.00
Cash Receipts	\$160,413.87
Cash Disbursements	\$354,583.00
Ending Cash Balance (7/31/2014)	\$176,957.87

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Popso to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Hiring EMS Per-Diems Update– Chief Scully reported the interviews are done and August 20th will be the practicals and written test for seven candidates. After that, the committee will decide who moves on. He will have the number and names of candidates being hired.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. T-Shirt Order - \$2,200.00
A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Mayer to approve the T-shirt order. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Approve the purchase of 3 sets of PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) – NJ State contract purchase
A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Popso to approve the purchase of 3 sets of PPE. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Declare Bullard Thermal Imaging Camera (T3) as surplus and donate to the Florence Township Police Department.
A motion was made by Commissioner Mayer and seconded by Commissioner Popso to declare the Bullard Thermal Imaging Camera (T3) as surplus and donate it to the Florence Township Police Department. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Purchase TV/Entertainment Center (Incentive plan Policy – Station Enhancements) - \$2,000.00
A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Mayer to approve the purchase of a TV/Entertainment Center not to exceed \$2,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Approve POL440 Medical and Wellness Program Policy (policy updated) -
A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Mayer to approve POLICY440 Medical and Wellness Program Policy. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Approve Fire Prevention Materials - \$4,500.00
A motion was made by Commissioner Mayer and seconded by Commissioner Arnold to approve the purchase of the Fire Prevention Materials. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Approve masonry repairs to the Firehouse - \$1,500.00
FM Richardson reported that it is mostly grout that is missing or cracking. The primary area being the front to the right of bay 7 by the radio room, and then some other various areas around. It will NOT address the stucco, the two areas where the stucco is peeling. The grout will look newer, but will match in color.
A motion was made by Commissioner Mayer and seconded by Commissioner Popso to approve masonry repairs up to \$1,500.00. Motion carried unanimously.

GOOD OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Popso suggested that all of the actual reports from the Officers and Committee's (Chief's report, IT report, Training report, etc.) that are submitted to the Board be posted to our website along with the Commissioner's minutes. The Board members liked the idea and Solicitor Gaskill had no problem with them being posted. Reports will now be submitted to the Board with Carol Taylor being cc'd, and she will give Todd the entire package (minutes and reports) to post on our website. The reports should be done in a Word Document rather than just email form to make it easier for Todd to post them.
2. Commissioner Mayer thanked everyone who worked at the car show. It was a good day. Commissioner Bauer agreed and reported that we were very well represented.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold, and seconded by Commissioner Mayer to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried unanimously.

1. **Mr. Toby Houseworth:** “Toby Houseworth, # Shaver Drive. One question concerning commissioner’s wages or stipends for the year. How is that broken down? Monthly, or per meeting?”
Commissioner Arnold: “It’s quarterly.”
B/C Mullen: “Yeah, they get paid quarterly, but it’s not per meeting. It’s just a salary.”
5 **Mr. Houseworth:** “It’s just a salary. So they are not paid per meeting?”
B/C Mullen: “No.”
Mr. Houseworth: “Ok. I was confused because I’ve heard two or three different versions of how it’s broken down per meeting and whatever. So it’s just quarterly based on the total and then divided up quarterly.”
10 **B/C Mullen:** “Yep.”
Commissioner Bauer: “Approved in the budget, there is a line item by the Township for salary.”
Mr. Houseworth: “Ok. My question would be if it was per meeting, and you don’t attend the meeting, then you shouldn’t get paid. But if it is just quarterly, you understand? Then no matter whether you attend the meetings or not, you are still paid quarterly. Correct?”
15 **Multiple people:** “Yes/Correct.”
Commissioner Bauer: “And to tell you the truth Mr. Houseworth, there is no extra stipends for all of the extra meetings we have too, or any of the travel time that I have when I have to go to Delran to the insurance meetings, or wherever I have to go for the extra meetings running around. Ok, so.”
Mr. Houseworth: “Ok. Well that was the question...”
20 **Commissioner Bauer:** “Yep, Yep.”
Mr. Houseworth: “...I questioned the quarterly, how it was broken down. Because I’ve had several different versions and I was not one hundred percent sure. Ok. Thank you.”
Commissioner Bauer: “Is there anyone else?”
2. **Mr. Clinton Boyd:** “Clinton Boyd, # East Fifth Street. The Fire Company Executive Officers would like to hear from the Commissioners their purpose in the additional language they want added to the Company contract.”
25 **Commissioner Bauer:** “Well, I’ll tell you what we are going to do is discuss things with the lawyer. We do have a liaison that’s been working with you. A matter of fact, we’ve had two liaisons that were working with you over this year on that contract. So the thing is, we’ve given the language, is a legal language that came from the lawyer, and we are going to discuss it.”
30 **Solicitor Gaskill:** “I can certainly comment on it.”
Commissioner Bauer: “Sure.”
Solicitor Gaskill: “My understanding was that the Company wanted some additional language to make it broader. The language that is provided is the broadest that I could do in good conscience when looking at the statute. The Board was perfectly happy with the old language. The only reason why I attempted to make it ‘broader’ was I thought it was what the Company wanted. The other contract we’ve had for twenty-five years without any problem that I know of.”
35 **Mr. Boyd:** “To my knowledge we did not ask for any revisions to the contract, in fact we asked for the contract to be left the way it was.”
40 **Commissioner Mayer:** “Ah no. In the meeting that we had you asked for that paragraph to be reworded.”
Mr. Boyd: “No. I’m sorry. That’s why we are here because it seems like we have liaisons coming back and forth. We are saying one thing, and then we hear something different. We did not ask, did we ask for that?”
45 **Commissioner Mayer:** “Absolutely you did, because we discussed the fact that it has been since the three companies because you were not happy with the wording about fire, how it is worded is...let me find a copy.” (*looking for a copy*)
Commissioner Bauer: “Would you like to speak there, sir?”
Solicitor Gaskill: “Just moving forward, if we are ok with the old language that has been fine for 50 twenty-five years, and you guys are net despite what has been miscommunicated, and you guys are happy with the old language, then we really don’t have to spend a whole bunch of time with it, right?”
Commissioner Mayer: “The language that we’re referring to was the ‘It is further agreed upon that all vouchers or receipts presented to the Commissioners by the Fire Company must reflect expenses exclusively for fire services, equipment, and protection.’ And it was discussed that that is no longer 55 the case and you wanted it worded differently. We discussed the fact that it was statute and that is

why it went to the lawyer for suggested revisions.”

Commissioner Bauer: “For record Mr. Jacoby.”

Mr. Albert A. Jacoby: “Al Jacoby, # Wallace Avenue, Roebling section of Florence Township. There was nothing that was brought up – I’m the Treasurer, I’m not a Trustee, but anyway – there was nothing brought up in that meeting about upkeep, maintenance, and the landscaping.”

Commissioner Mayer: “You are correct. That was our suggestions back.”

Mr. Jacoby: “Right? There was nothing that was brought up in that meeting about that.”

Commissioner Mayer: “Um, I had spoken with the President about it, and he said to put it into the language, you guys would review it, and you would get back with other changes. And I am yet to hear from anybody.”

Mr. Jacoby: “When it came back, it wasn’t in agreement with the Executive Board.”

Commissioner Mayer: “That’s fine. And I asked for suggestions from the Executive Board and I am still waiting.”

Mr. Jacoby: “The problem with it is if you put upkeep, maintenance, and landscaping, it’s too broad of a thing. I mean, upkeep, we could have paid for the parking lot being coated. We could pay for roof repairs as far as maintenance.”

Commissioner Mayer: “We are open to suggestions for other language. I expressed that to your President in an email last week.”

Multiple people speaking.

Solicitor Gaskill: “I think if we really don’t have a problem, talking about what everybody meant to say before isn’t moving it forward. If you are fine with the old language, and my understanding is the Board is fine with the old language, can’t we move ahead instead of talking about the misunderstandings that we had?”

Mr. Jacoby: “We don’t have a problem with that, I don’t think.”

Mr. Houseworth: “If I may.”

Commissioner Bauer: “For the record, that’s Mr. Houseworth again.”

Mr. Houseworth: “I think where we had gotten off the track is when we had a thousand dollars monthly held initially. Then we’re a little confused in the contract where it states fire protection equipment and all. We are worried that the District is going to say ‘Where are your vouchers? You’re not spending it on this, this, or this.’ and hold that thousand dollars a month again. And this is our problem.”

Solicitor Gaskill: “Ok. *(interrupted)*”

Commissioner Mayer: “Excuse me for one second. So you are confirming that that was an issue that was discussed in the meeting and the language.”

Mr. Houseworth: “Not as far as the maintenance or landscaping, because...”

Commissioner Mayer: “No. When did I say that? That was our suggestion.”

Multiple people speaking.

Ms. Taylor: “One at a time. Sorry.”

Commissioner Bauer: “One at a time. Let Ms. Mayer talk.”

Commissioner Mayer: “I am asking you to confirm that in a meeting that we sat in, that the Company did ask for re-wording of that paragraph. I’m not saying that you said the landscaping, that was our suggestion. But you did ask for re-wording of that paragraph.”

Mr. Houseworth: “Yeah, I can go back... *(interrupted)*”

Commissioner Mayer: “Thank you.”

Mr. Houseworth: “I can go back... *(interrupted)*”

Commissioner Mayer: “Thank you. That’s all I needed to know.”

Mr. Houseworth: “Only because, only because of the concern of those three things that if we didn’t abide by that, in other words, you were going to hold portions of that thousand dollars.”

Commissioner Mayer: “Exactly. But that is not what... *(interrupted)*”

Mr. Houseworth: “No. No.”

Commissioner Mayer: “...that is not what he said. He said you guys did not ask for that change and in fact, you did. I just want clarification from somebody else that was in the room. Thank you.”

Mr. Houseworth: “That’s the big stumbling block, is when you initially held that thousand dollars. Now we’re worried the wording of the initial contract, are we going to look at a loop hole when those three areas that you’re going to say ‘Oh wait, we’re going to hold five hundred dollars of your

monthly because you're not turning in enough vouchers.' Or at the end of the year (*interrupted*)
Multiple people speaking.

Commissioner Mayer: "May I clarify something?"

Solicitor Gaskill: "Not to argue though."

115 **Commissioner Mayer:** "No. No it's not. The money...and as I stated this in a public meeting before..."

Multiple people speaking.

Commissioner Mayer: "...the reason that money was withheld..."

Multiple people speaking.

120 **Commissioner Arnold:** "One at a time."

Carolyn Taylor: "Alright. Hold it please. One at a time because I have to quote all of you and I can't. One."

Commissioner Mayer: "The reason why that money was withheld had nothing to do with the contract negotiations and you not spending it in a certain way. And I've said this before and I will say it again, I am the one who made the motion. It was because we were talking about going to a voucher system. If we went to a voucher system, you would no longer receive payments like you do. That is why I asked to hold the thing. As soon as we decided that we weren't going to do the voucher system, the following month, the two payments were made to catch it up. That is why that payment was held. I've said it before, and I will say it again, I am the one that made the motion."

130 **Mr. Houseworth:** "Ok."

Solicitor Gaskill: "A specific comment, and then a general comment. The specific comment is I've been involved in this for twenty-five years. No one has ever challenged what the Company has used any of the money for. So I think it's, you know, a little petty to say you're going to start looking for a loop hole. It's never happened in twenty-five years. It hasn't happened. There is no reason to think it's going to happen. The second, more general thing is, it is great to see the leadership of the Company here in an open exchange with the Board members. I only wish it was here to discuss how we are going to get able-bodied firefighters on trucks to put out fires rather than loop holes in a twenty-five year old contract that has never been challenged. (*Audience applauding*) Thank you. I'm not done yet. You got me started now. Ok."

140 **Mr. Houseworth:** "Go ahead."

Solicitor Gaskill: "So we're in danger, right, in this fire company of not having anything in five years if we don't straighten out. We used to have three fire stations that answered the bell. Seven years later we can't even answer the bell in one fire station. So what we all need to think about, talk about, how we are going to get these kids active and on fire trucks to go put out fires at people's houses. And this is the first time I have ever seen the two sides here in an open discussion. We are talking about what, the thousand dollars and a possible loop hole. Why don't we get together to write a base to start to talk about how to get these kids on the fire trucks? That would be important. That would be worth your time. That's just my opinion."

150 **Mr. Houseworth:** "Ok. The whole reason that this all got stretched to where we are right now is because, tell me if I'm wrong, the Commission at one time at one meeting we had, you wanted to set up a separate account, ok, to pay the bills. And then, if we didn't use that money by the end of the year, we were told that we wouldn't get it. Ok, so when (*interrupted*)

Commissioner Arnold: "No."

Commissioner Mayer: "You're confusing two..."

155 **Commissioner Arnold:** "You're confusing two issues."

Mr. Houseworth: "But that's all I'm saying. This is where, this is where all this started and we really started looking at the contract. It's been like that for twenty-five years. We were happy to just say 'That's fine.' As long as we don't have to start to worry about everybody crossing 'T's' and dotting 'I's', and that we were going to be held responsible; 'Well how come...What did you spend this for here? What did you spend this for there?' We don't have a problem because our books are in order that we don't blatantly spend money. But, we don't want you to come back at the end of the year and say 'Well, you didn't spend all your money. Why are we giving you all this money?' And this is what we have in the back of our heads."

165 **Solicitor Gaskill:** "That's why I think the consideration was decided to be shelved, to go back to something that wasn't broken. And that's what I thought we were going back to."

Mr. Houseworth: “And we were happy with that.”

Solicitor Gaskill: “And then we are all in accord, I think?”

Mr. Houseworth: “We are happy with that.”

Commissioner Mayer: “We will discuss it in closed session.”

170 **Mr. Houseworth:** “Ok.”

Commissioner Mayer: “In light of information given over the weekend.”

175 **Mr. Houseworth:** “But see, we also asked for all of our Executive Board and the five Commissioners to meet after our last exchange of this paragraph, and we were told ‘No. We don’t want too many people meeting together.’ Well I have been in negotiations with a company I worked with for thirty years, and you want to be across the table talking this out. Not like one person, you hand it to them, and then like three weeks later you get a reply; we give it back to them two weeks later. Let’s get this taken care of.”

Commissioner Mayer: “And that’s why I’ve been asking for a meeting for over a week. And I’ve been told ‘No’ by your president.”

180 **Mr. Houseworth:** “Not with one person. We wanted to go into closed session with all of the Commissioners and Executive Board, and we were denied that. And you’re saying that we should sit across the table and discuss this.”

Solicitor Gaskill: “I’m saying you’re right here sitting across the table in an open public meeting.”

Mr. Houseworth: “Well why were we denied that?”

185 **Solicitor Gaskill:** “But, all I’m trying to say is, let’s not quibble about what the problem was before. Let’s try and resolve a problem. And if we...” (*interrupted*)

Mr. Houseworth: “That’s what we are here for.”

Solicitor Gaskill: “Right. So, am I correct in hearing that you guys are fine with going back to the old contract?”

190 **Mr. Houseworth:** “Yes.”

Solicitor Gaskill: “And again, I guess we are going into closed session and discuss that.”

Commissioner Mayer: “Yeah we are because more information has come up this weekend. Yes.”

Solicitor Gaskill: “That would make that contract...” (*interrupted by alarm for EMS call*)

Commissioner Mayer: “Yes”

195 **Ms. Taylor:** “Stand by.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Ok. As the Chairman, if I may. Ms. Mayer, the Liaison, did speak to me about your request. And I said because there has been a miscommunication that the only way to get us straight is to have them come to the meeting. And we will discuss it. It is on the record. You know where we are going. It’s no closed door behind this ‘she said, he said, or I said.’ What’s going on? So now, now it’s right out here in open public. It’s what they call transparency.”

200 **Mr. Houseworth:** “But we weren’t told that. We weren’t told to have the Executive Board here for an open session. We just came on our own. That’s communication! Communication.”

Commissioner Mayer: “Then you need to speak with your president.”

205 **Commissioner Bauer:** “Let me tell you something. I will tell you just how this happened. Ms. Mayer called me, I was sitting in the middle of a lake answering a phone call, I said ‘No, let them come.’ and she contacted your president, and he should have contacted you. I knew about it. I contacted the rest of the commissioners. I said you’d probably be here tonight. Then I heard you wouldn’t be here, and I am happy to have you here so that we can get this thing ironed out and put to sleep. And yes Mr. Houseworth, I was the one who suggested that we set an account up by statute. If I remember, you said ‘Well we don’t need it because you’re a vendor.’ I can remember you saying that to me. And I don’t think that’s really good you being a Fire Company leader.”

210 **Mr. Houseworth:** “We’re a contract.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Alright, you’re a contract. I don’t think you really want to be that. I think you want to be the Fire Company. That’s my opinion. I think the Fire Company and the Fire District should have a good working relationship – not be somebody that we hired like the lawn mower guy. That’s what a vendor or a contractor is. That’s the way I feel. That’s my opinion. It’s out, it’s on the record right now, so that’s the way it is.”

215 **Mr. Houseworth:** “Well we have a contact, alright.”

220 **Commissioner Bauer:** “Do you understand the wording? And sometimes what people say can really get you in trouble. So the thing is the Fire Company is the Fire Company; the Fire District is the Fire

District. You're not a lawn mower service. You're not a vendor. We all work hand-in-hand – I sure hope we do.”

Commissioner Arnold: “Together we are supposed to be the Florence Township Fire Department.”

225 **Mr. Houseworth:** “I understand that. But, when we have a contract, it's not for you to tell us how to spend our money that we are contracted to do.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Oh no. It's... *(multiple people speaking)*

Solicitor Gaskill: “Unfortunately to a certain extent, it is their obligation.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Yes.”

230 **Solicitor Gaskill:** “If it means tax money, they have an obligation. And again, for twenty-five years...”

Mr. Houseworth: “It hasn't been broken. So”

Solicitor Gaskill: “So what the heck are we talking about?”

Mr. Houseworth: “It's just the way it was given to us initially.”

Solicitor Gaskill: “I understand that.”

235 **Mr. Houseworth:** “And the red flag went up.”

Commissioner Mayer: “And initially, I believe we discussed the reasoning for our questioning was that we would like to see more money put into recruitment, and more money put into the members of the Company and the District. That was our biggest thing. We did not feel that enough was done to help in the recruitment and given back to the members. That's what started the entire discussion almost now a year ago.”

240 **Mr. Houseworth:** “And what are we supposed to do to give back to the members? What else do we need to do?”

Commissioner Mayer: “What have you done? We'll start there. What have you done?”

Commissioner Arnold: “Joe.”

245 **Caption Joseph Wargo:** “Can I ask a question?”

Commissioner Bauer: “Yes.”

(multiple people speaking)

Commissioner Bauer: “Hold it, hold it. Wait a minute. You need to...”

Caption Wargo: “I have a question.”

250 **Commissioner Arnold:** “I thought you were going to answer.”

(multiple people speaking)

Commissioner Bauer: “I'm sorry, Joe.”

Caption Wargo: “Joe Wargo.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Your address Joe, for the record.”

255 **Caption Wargo:** “# East Eighth Street.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Alright.”

Caption Wargo: “I have a question. This is not towards the Commissioners. This is towards the Fire Company. I have been in this department for ten years, eleven years, whatever. What has the Fire Company spent their money on towards the members in so far as T-shirts, and jackets, and whatever else? Every time someone comes to the Fire Company and/or the Trustees to buy or purchase something for the building, they get told ‘No.’”

260 **Mr. Houseworth:** “You just got a rowing machine for the... what's its name, right?”

Commissioner Mayer: “Right. And the District paid for it, thank you.”

265 **Mr. Houseworth:** “Well alright. What about the jackets? Who split the money on that? The Fire Company and the District.”

Caption Wargo: “I said that. I said that.”

(Numerous people speaking)

Ms. Taylor: “One at a time, please.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Hey guys, one at a time!”

270 **Solicitor Gaskill:** “Just one. Just one.”

Caption Wargo: “Right. Other than the jackets and the T-shirts, what has the Company bought?”

Mr. Houseworth: “What have you come? Since I've been here as a Trustee, what have you come to...” *(interrupted)*

275 **Caption Wargo:** “I came here five years ago and asked for new furniture for upstairs. I went down and got three prices from three different places for new furniture for upstairs, and I got told ‘No.’ I

came and I said I wanted twenty-five dollars for a new score machine for the air hockey table upstairs, and I got told 'No.'"

Mr. Houseworth: "Well as far as the furniture for upstairs, I have no...I have never heard of anything about furniture for upstairs."

280 **Caption Wargo:** "We asked for a new VCR or a DVD player for upstairs because the remote for that one is missing and it's obsolete. We haven't seen one yet, and that's been over three years ago. Every time somebody comes to the Fire Company to get something, everybody gets told 'No.' And honestly, the only thing people, the fire company spends any money on around here, and I'm going to put this out there, is for people to go to Wildwood."

285 **Mr. Houseworth:** "To go to Wildwood. That's a separate account."

Caption Wargo: "It doesn't matter. But you guys still come back to the Company and you still ask for money."

Mr. Houseworth: "For what?"

Caption Wargo: "I'm just saying."

290 **Caption Rose Gyenge:** "That's a company meeting issue. That's for next week. That's a company meeting issue."

Ms. Darlene Boyd: "Darlene Boyd" (*interrupted*)

Mr. Jacoby: "Let's not air our dirty laundry here. If you have a problem, come to the Trustee's meeting."

295 **Caption Wargo:** "It's not a dirty laundry. I'm just asking you guys..."

Mr. Houseworth: "It's not for the District. It's for the Fire Company."

Caption Wargo: "I'm just asking."

Mr. Houseworth: "Come to the Fire Company meeting and we will get it taken care of."

Caption Wargo: "When people ask for money to buy something, everybody gets told 'No.'"

300 **Mr. Houseworth:** "Not that I know of. I haven't said no to anything they've come to me for."

Caption Wargo: "Then I am going to start asking."

Commissioner Bauer: "Ok. That was Mr. Houseworth responding to Mr. Wargo. Ms. Darlene."

305 **Ms. Darlene Boyd:** "Darlene Boyd, # East Fifth Street. I purchased a DVD player when you asked for it. And it was given to Todd Estelow. I never know what happened to it. You asked for Keurig coffee machine for the kitchen. I went out and bought it, and that's there. So the members ask for it, it was bought. But I can honestly say furniture, it's not when we were on the Board because I don't ever remember anything..." (*interrupted*)

Caption Wargo: "I didn't say you guys. I didn't say you guys."

Ms. Boyd: "And that's not coming from the guys to buy furniture."

310 **Caption Wargo:** "I said the Fire Company."

Mr. Houseworth: "Alright guys. This is for the Fire Company business."

Commissioner Bauer: "Yeah, the fire meeting is next week. And you know what, speaking of that, the Fire Company meeting is next Monday?"

Commissioner Mayer: "Yes."

315 **Commissioner Bauer:** "Could you please do me a favor and let me have a copy of the minutes? I used to get them, I don't get them anymore. You know, what you talk about there?"

Mr. Houseworth: "At the meeting?"

Commissioner Bauer: "Yeah."

320 **Mr. Houseworth:** "They are given out at the meeting when you sign up, you get a copy of the minutes."

Commissioner Mayer: "And a copy is put in Commissioner Rzomp's mail box."

325 **Commissioner Bauer:** "I just went in and checked, and I don't get it. We have every, my Chief, everybody sends a report. I am just asking for a favor. I am not asking for a fight. How about emailing me one, or putting on in my folder over there so that I don't have to come to the meeting and seem like I'm playing Commissioner at your Fire Company meeting."

Mr. Houseworth: "But you are a member."

Commissioner Bauer: "I'm a Life member, that's right. Listen Tobe, it just get to the point where I don't want to, I don't know."

Mr. Houseworth: "Ok..." (*interrupted*)

330 **Commissioner Bauer:** "Ok, let's do this. Mr. Jacoby, you're up."

Mr. Jacoby: “Let me just get something straight. This goes back to before December when the Commissioner’s representative came to the Executive meeting and they requested that the Wildwood money be split. So January 2nd, I was at the bank, made a new account up, took all that money that was assigned to Wildwood and put that in a separate account. That operates anything in Wildwood, the hoogie sale, anything that has to do with going to Wildwood and the convention expenses. We did that. We thought that was going to make everybody happy. Apparently it didn’t because the following month they came to the meeting again and said no, we have some other different ideas. That’s when that whole confusion started. When we have negotiations, we shouldn’t be having one representative coming in there and talk. Then it comes back and it goes back and forth, back and forth. That’s not how you really negotiate.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Well, Mr. Jacoby. You remember there were negotiations going on and then I came. And I was trying to interpret the law that we have to run by. And the law said any money, any tax dollars, and I explained this at the meeting, and that’s what I thought. And now I’m under the impression Mr. Gaskill told me that it really doesn’t have to be that way. In other words, I misread something in our laws that we have to go by. I suggested it, and that went away. Ms. Mayer took over as liaison, and she has been having the meetings with you since then. So me, as far as what I suggested, that’s gone. That’s out of the picture. So to keep bringing it up about what maybe I had asked for, that’s a moot point right now, because that is gone. That wasn’t on the table any longer. The language is what was on the table, and there is an issue with. Not what I had asked for one meeting. It was one against seven.”

Mr. Jacoby: “Right. You did that. Ok. I only suggest can we have a three-year contract?”

Commissioner Arnold: “Love that.”

Mr. Jacoby: “Pardon?”

Solicitor Gaskill: “I think we have to keep a one-year contract based on budget.”

Commissioner Mayer: “Right.”

Commissioner Arnold: “Oh yeah, budget.”

Mr. Jacoby: “This year, it’s August, the ninth month, the eighth month rather, and we don’t even have anything signed, you know.”

Solicitor Gaskill: “I think the Company and the District kind of go on good faith. I mean every year for twenty-five years we’ve had this thing – never this long – but there’s never been a problem. So I don’t know why we’re creating a problem that really doesn’t exist. I think there was miscommunication and misunderstanding. But twenty-five years of one-year contracts was never a problem. If it ain’t broke, I don’t know.”

Mr. Houseworth: “That was our intention.”

Mr. Clinton Boyd: “Clinton Boyd again. I just wanted to point out, no one mentioned this. The Fire Company’s biggest expenses are for the dinner, and for the picnic, which are directly to the benefit of the members. Those are the biggest items, and that amounts to half.”

Commissioner Arnold: “And there is specifically twelve thousand dollars.”

Mr. Boyd: “Specifically twelve thousand dollars...” (*interrupted*)

Commissioner Arnold: “For those two items.”

Mr. Boyd: “... from the Fire Company, and that is the Fire Company’s biggest expenses. And they are directly for the benefit of the members.”

Commissioner Arnold: “And it comes from us.”

Commissioner Mayer: “It comes from us.”

Commissioner Arnold: “From the District. And it is tax dollars”

Commissioner Mayer: “Exactly.”

Mr. Boyd: “Correct.”

Commissioner Mayer: “So that is why we are asking what the other nine thousand dollars, what else is done for the members? What kind of things like the Christmas party?”

Mr. Boyd: “There’s little things. Soda. The Fire Company pays for the soda. The um...”

Commissioner Mayer: “No. We just signed a voucher for that.”

Mr. Boyd: “Do we pay for the um...”

Mr. Jacoby: “Snack machine.”

Mr. Boyd: “...snack machine, the plates and cups? We buy all the paper plates, cups, silverware, that not only the members use, but the Per-diems use.”

(Multiple people saying "No.")

Commissioner Arnold: "The District buys that."

Commissioner Mayer: "No. Todd buys it."

Commissioner Arnold: "Todd buys everything. He orders it all."

390 **Commissioner Mayer:** "That's what we're asking."

Mr. Boyd: "There's jackets, there's other support, the Fire Company. The other, the rest of it is also for the support of the Fire Company."

Commissioner Mayer: "Like?"

Mr. Boyd: "You have officers, we have officers. There is business to be conducted."

395 **Commissioner Mayer:** "Right. Nine thousand dollars' worth? That's what we are asking. And that's been the question from day one. And that has been the basis for the entire thing."

Mr. Boyd: "There's things the Fire Department does like the Halloween event, which makes the District look good. There's other events, the Easter egg hunt..."

Commissioner Mayer: "Ok."

400 **Mr. Boyd:** "...the Fire Company pays for. There's a million things like that. The Fire Company doesn't hide any of those facts. Those facts are known."

Commissioner Mayer: "Absolutely. But in a time that we are looking for to build morale, and to get more people on the trucks, and to build up the incentive program – because if you look on the calendar, there are many a nights that it is very, very weak on the different shifts. We are not seeing the Company holding up that part of the agreement."

405 **Mr. Boyd:** "And the Company has stated many times let's get together and let's try to figure something out. And 'Oh, yeah, yeah, that's a good idea. We'll get together and discuss it and try to come up with some ideas.' and that is as far as it goes. We've mentioned it many times."

Commissioner Bauer: "I think the Chiefs been working on it. I know he has contacted you president. Am I correct Mr. Mullen?"

410 **B/C Mullen:** "Yeah, we actually have an incentive committee meeting on the 14th."

Commissioner Mayer: "That the District is running."

Commissioner Bauer: "So we're trying."

Commissioner Mayer: "This is, this is totally..." *(multiple people speaking)*

415 3. **Mr. Boyd:** "Different subject. Alright. Tonight, I know you've got an agenda because you have referred to having an agenda. There is no agenda made available to the public. You've approved minutes of a prior meeting. There's no minutes of the prior meeting made available to the public."

Commissioner Bauer: "It should be on your website that we approved..."

Commissioner Mayer: "The minutes do no need to be put out until after they have been reviewed by the Board."

420 **Mr. Boyd:** "You've approved a Battalion Chief's report, no copies made available to the public. You've approved the Borough of Fire Prevention report with no copies available. The Chief's report, purchases list, training report, IT report, bill list, Treasurer's report, and you've approved a policy."

Commissioner Bauer: "We're fixing it. Andy just suggested it and we're..."

425 *(multiple people speaking)*

Mr. Boyd: "My point to you is this is all in violation of the Open Public Meetings Act. If you are going to be doing these things, you can be doing them in private. You have to be approving these things in public. The public has a right to know."

Commissioner Mayer: "Would anybody like to see any of the copies? You are more than welcome to take mine."

430 **Mr. Boyd:** "And this is the second time I've presented this to you. I presented it to you two months ago. It should be made available prior to the meeting. My point to you is, your entire meeting is out of order. It is all in violation of the Open Public Meetings Act."

Commissioner Mayer: "And we are working on that. And here is a copy. Would anybody like to see anything?"

435 **Mr. Boyd:** "I'm sorry. They should be made available prior to the..." *(interrupted)*

Commissioner Mayer: "Ah, ah! I am not disagreeing with that. But I am offering them if anybody would like to see them. I am offering my copy up. I'm not disagreeing with you. I am offering a copy if anybody would like to see it."

440 **Mr. Boyd:** "And, and I told you two months ago..." *(interrupted)*

Commissioner Mayer: “I’m not arguing that.”

Mr. Boyd: “...this stuff needs to be out, it needs to be available. You’ve already approved it. My point to you is it’s out of order. Your entire meeting is out of order.”

445 **Commissioner Mayer:** “That’s fine. Would anybody else like to see a copy of it? I am offering a copy.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Is there anyone else who would like to speak? George, please state your name and address for the record.”

450 4. **Mr. George Yurcho:** “George Yurcho, # Olive Street, Roebling; Also the Fire Company President. First, my apologies for being late – I am just getting out of work. Ah, we’ve been working on this contract now for eight months. Entirely too long. A couple months I can see. Alright. This is the first time in at least thirty-three years in the department’s existence that this has happened where this is taking this long. Officers are here tonight and we wanted to go into closed session to discuss this and possibly hash this out and settle this contract tonight. We were refused, which I still can’t believe that occurred. Alright.”

455 **Commissioner Bauer:** “We discussed this George. I’m sorry you were late. We did discuss this. It was my decision because I wanted it brought out in the open meeting, not in closed door. I wanted some transparency on this so maybe get everything straightened out between all of us. That’s why, that was my decision...”

Mr. Yurcho: “Ok.”

460 **Commissioner Bauer:** “...as the Chairman, ok? I can control the agenda.”

Mr. Yurcho: “I just want to make sure everyone else is, all the other people are...”

Commissioner Bauer: “Yeah, we discussed it.”

Commissioner Mayer: “We discussed it.”

465 **Commissioner Bauer:** “It’s not slighting anybody. It’s just, maybe it’s the way we have to do it so there is no miscommunication. We discussed this just twenty minutes ago.”

Mr. Yurcho: “One or two things to get hashed out with this that we have to discuss and iron out. The thing that gets me is what is taking so long and the problem that it’s never occurred in the Fire Company before. I discussed this back in April with the other contract negotiations. Ok. We are not hiding anything, we never are trying to hide anything, nor will we hide anything. So I don’t know what the problem is.”

470 **Commissioner Bauer:** “I think, I’m really sorry you were late but we, I think we beat that one up pretty good and I think we are on the...”

Commissioner Mayer: “I think a lot was shown this evening.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Yeah, George, I think you’re just a little bit...”

475 **Mr. Yurcho:** “Ok.”

Commissioner Bauer: “You missed it.”

Mr. Yurcho: “Alright.”

Commissioner Bauer: “But you know what?”

Mr. Yurcho: “We’re able to meet? You’re ready to meet to hash this out? The officers are here.”

480 **Commissioner Bauer:** “The minutes will be posted...”

Commissioner Mayer: “After they’re approved.”

Commissioner Bauer: “...after they’re approved with everything that was said. Carol is taking care of the right now. So, you know. But now we know there will be no miscommunication, you can come back. But we should get this straightened out.”

485 **Mr. Yurcho:** “Absolutely! ...” (*multiple people speaking*) This never should have been a problem. And another thing about this Board that gets under my skin is that all five of you are Fire Company members who are also involved.”

Commissioners Bauer and Mayer: “Mmhm.”

Mr. Yurcho: “You all know what the deal is and how it is run.”

490 **Commissioners Bauer and Mayer:** “Mmhm.”

Commissioners Bauer: “You are correct. You stick around to be a life member.”

Mr. Yurcho: “I am too. We don’t want to do anything via other avenues. We want to hash this out. So whenever we are able to meet, let’s meet and get this over with.”

Commissioner Mayer: “We will discuss it in closed session.”

495 **Commissioner Bauer:** “Mr. Jacoby, again.”

5. **Mr. Jacoby:** “One last thing. All I hear is we got to do more for the members. Well forty-nine years ago I joined Number 2 Company. Well actually it was longer than that because when you join as a junior, that didn’t count. I walked in the door and they handed me a paint brush and said ‘Go ahead to it kid.’ So why do we always have to support them, you know, give ‘m, give’ m something? I mean you want to give something? Get Obama care. If you like your plan, you can keep it. You see where that went, don’t you?”

Solicitor Gaskill: “Mr. Jacoby. The whole point is, and I wish it was yester year, but it’s not. And we all can see that volunteer organizations in general and ours in particular, is slipping. And I don’t know why it is. And I know that both the District and the Company want the Company around desperately because we need people on the fire trucks. How are we going to do that? Because it is not happening like the old days. People aren’t coming out. We can’t get the trucks out. And I think it’s great that everybody is here, but we are missing a great opportunity talking about this God-forsaken thousand dollar a month contract when we need to talk about the life of the Fire Company and fire service in this town is in jeopardy. What are we going to do to save it? That’s what we need to be talking about – the Board and the Fire Company officers. Because in five years from now, if it keeps sliding like this, we’ll have nothing to talk about. And that’s what I’m worried about. That’s what I’ve seen steadily over twenty-five years. And I don’t know why. I don’t know if there is anything that can be done. But we sure as heck better talk about it now while there is still a viable company. Because you look around at other towns, their companies are gone! And I fear that can happen. I don’t want it to happen. But if we don’t have a dialog and we don’t do something to get kids involved, and on them trucks, in five years there will be nothing to talk about. That’s all I have to say.”

Commissioners Bauer: “So we will move on with this. We’re going to settle this. There is no enemy here, enemy there. It’s just, we’ll take care of it. But I’m glad, and yes it was my idea to have us all here together instead of, you know, in a closed room somewhere. Its good face-to-face with all of this. Sometimes it gets lonely at the Commission meeting when there is no one here. Alright. I’ve got nothing more to say. Is there anyone else who would like to speak at open?”

A motion was made by Commissioner Mayer, and seconded by Commissioner Arnold to close the meeting to the public. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by Commissioner Mayer, and seconded by Commissioner Popso to go into the closed session for contracts and personnel. Motion carried unanimously at 19:27.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mayer and seconded by Commissioner Arnold to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously at 20:17 hours.

BACK TO OLD BUSINESS:

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Mayer to make the recommended changes back to the original language of the paragraph in question of the Fire Company contract and get the finished product to them before their Company meeting next Monday. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Popso to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:20 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Taylor