

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
TOWNSHIP OF HILLSBOROUGH**

**379 SOUTH BRANCH ROAD
HILLSBOROUGH, NJ 08844
Hillsborough.firesafety@comcast.net**

WORK MEETING

MAY 9, 2017

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Hillsborough Township, County of Somerset, New Jersey convened in a Work Session on Thursday, May 9, 2017 at 7:00 pm. In the Conference Room at the Hillsborough Township Municipal Building on South Branch Road. Commissioner John Catrombon, Jr. called the meeting to order.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, a call of the roll indicated that Board members present were: Commissioner John Catrombon Jr., Commissioner John Lazorchak, Commissioner Pat Buckley, Commissioner Mike Carone, Chief Mike Murphy, and Chief Fire Marshal Weniger. Absent: Commissioner Charlie Nuara

In accordance with the state of NJ "Sunshine Law" adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mailing notification to the Hillsborough Beacon and Courier News. Notice was also delivered to the Township Clerk and posted on the Municipal Building Bulletin Board.

CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioners discussed the following:

1. Commissioner Nuara:

- Absent. No report.

2. Commissioner Catrombon, Jr.:

- No report.

3. Commissioner Lazorchak:

- Physicals:
 - o Approximately 100 members have gone for physicals. It is taking approximately four weeks out for getting an appointment. Have about 125 members in District that are required to have a physical.

4. Commissioner Buckley:

- Extrication Gloves:
 - o Asked Chief Fire Marshal Weniger about the amount of extrication gloves that need to be purchased. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said that the original thought was for technician training members. Estimating about 60+ gloves for the three fire companies, and amount of technicians. Purchasing the remainder of that as spares. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger stated that right now he has only received sizing from Stations 37 & 38, which is about 42 pairs. He will have the order done by the morning of April 9, 2017.

- Re-Distribution Committee:
 - o Would like to put together a Committee for Re-distribution of apparatus. Possibility of using one piece of apparatus for Fire Police should we get the apparatus from the Squad. Commissioner Carone suggested the possibility of using something for Signal 100. Commissioner Buckley replied, where would it be put?

- Turnout Gear GOG:
 - o Would like to take the 10 year requirement out of the Turnout Gear GOG that was recently finalized and approved. Would need to check gear out and document it. Keep gear past 10 years as long as it passes all requirements. Will vote on the changes at the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2017.
 - o Discussed who gets new gear, and passing down old gear. Will need to keep documentation. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said that the cleaning company will not clean any gear that is 10 years old unless it is authorized and signed off.

- Vehicle Extrication GOG:
 - o The Vehicle Extrication GOG has been done. Want to add required training, annual refresher at a minimum, and once/year. Companies can do more than that if they want.

- 37 – Swift Water Refresher Training:
 - o Was approached about doing a refresher training course. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said that Stations 36 & 38 have switched off and had training. One is coming up that Station 37 could attend.

- Extrication Training:

- Inquiring the status of who is up-to-date. Station 37 is up-to-date. Station 36 needs more training. Will be setting up lifting and stabilization, using airbags, and struts. Will limit the size of classes. Have been speaking with Alan Quarek about this. May do a District Awareness Class. Need to get a headcount of the members who will need training. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger will get information from someone he knows from Bayonne for “Man vs Machine” class.

- Station 37 – Tanker/Pumper:

- They are already thinking about tanker/pumper. Is there really a need? Heard the cost of a new tanker/pumper is \$800,000-900,000. Discussed amount of water each piece of apparatus from each company carries. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said to take into consideration that Station 37 does have the largest non-hydranted area.
- The Board needs to discuss standardization for new apparatus purchases. Discussed the amount of years to keep apparatus, etc.

5. Commissioner Carone:

- Vouchers:

- Went through vouchers for April, 2017, and obtained Commissioners signatures.

- Fit Testing:

- Access, the people who do our Fit Testing, do full service physicals and fit test on site. Don't know cost, but may be something to look into. They come in and set up at the firehouse and go through the stages. Maybe a Friday and Saturday or Saturday and Sunday, then once we were to get done with all 3, then another day for College students that may have missed the date. 2 days at the house, then done and they go. JC – this has been brought up before about this, but never got a price. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said that all records must be kept. Would have to find out if they can be transferred or come to the Fire Safety Office.
- Nick Patullo spoke to Chief Fire Marshal Weniger about a guy in South Bound Brook. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said that District 1 uses Dr. Collotus. He has used him and never had a problem with scheduling there, and they also give fit testing. Don't know the cost, but can find out. In the District that he is in, we are assigned a month that you will go for your physical. You get a reminder letter and given paperwork to fill out ahead of time, just have to call district office and say when your appointment is (date and time), and the district then faxes them an authorization. If 50 years old or older, a stress test needs done. Over 40 years old, need a stress test every other year. The physical includes lung, vision, hearing, fit, urinalysis, bloodwork, EKG, chest x-ray, and if getting stress test, it takes about a 1-1/2 hours. Also can get flu shot, PSA for males, titer, etc. We also have mandatory drug testing. Chief Murphy suggested we test for alcohol and drugs. He also said that they are required to have a DOT physical (blood and urine) at his job. If you are injured you have to have a urine test.

Garage at 36:

- We are buying a garage storage unit so when we are getting equipment we will have room in our bays for more apparatus. Since it is another bay we are adding, they are asking if the Commissioners could put in anything towards it. Commissioner Catrombon, Jr. said he thought that it should be paid by the company, but we would give bay rental. Another option, if Board isn't going to help with purchase of it, we are doing anyway, but would look for an increase in bay rentals for x number of years to pay it off. Cost is \$6,9000.00 total. The purpose is to free up a bay by putting boat and trailers in the new space. Commissioner Catrombon, Jr. said if we pay for this, he is afraid this will set a precedence. Commissioner Buckley said if we increase bay rental then everyone else is going to want an increase on theirs. Commissioner Catrombon, Jr. said that when Station 38 added on to their building, they got a bay increase. Commissioner Carone said that they looked into a storage container, and the cost is \$4,000.00-\$5,000.00. Commissioner Buckley suggested if they need bay space, we can consider helping. Chief Fire Marshal said that they would need several price quotes if the Board was to reimburse them for this. Chief Murphy suggested possibly giving them the bay rental increase.
- Discussed the list of what the town owns from the Squad. 7 ambulances, old suburban, rescue truck, various tools, pagers, and radios.
- 36 Ladder:
 - o Going out for service, has a lot of rust by the fenders and wheels and would like to get that taken care of while it is out. Have pictures of it for everyone to see. Commissioner Catrombon, Jr. said to get price quote for that. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said that just doing the rims, it would be 2 weeks out of service and couple thousand \$ job. Significant down time. Should get tire guys opinion, and also check into the paint warranty. Will have Fire Marshal Giordano check into this further. Truck is a 2007 (10 years old).

6. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger:

- Watchdog Pagers/Minitor 6's:
 - o Have a whole box of Watchdog pagers, however, a lot of them do not work (will not charge, will not turn off, one has to be turned on 6 times before it works). Also have about 7 new Minitor 6 pagers right now. I send them out to be fixed, and get them back and still get the same complaints. How many times do we need to keep sending them back? Commissioner Catrombon, Jr. asked "do junior members really need pagers?" Chief Fire Marshal Weniger stated "that is the question I am asking the Board". We have E-Dispatch, I am Responding, County Text, and phone apps. If we had a whole bunch of pagers, by all means. If I give 6 pagers out, we are going to need to buy more pagers. Commissioner Carone suggested to hold back and do not give any more to the juniors. Commissioner Catrombon, Jr. said with the options we have now that should be good. Commissioner Buckley mentioned that the juniors are underage, cannot drive, cannot go in to fire, a lot of them are going away to college, so they are the last ones that would need them. Commissioner Carone asked what we do with the pagers already issued. It was decided to take them back. We need to keep pagers available for anyone new that comes in that is not a junior and would need a pager. Commissioner Buckley asked how much pagers cost now. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said they cost over \$600.00 each. Commissioner Catrombon, Jr. said to collect them all, we

have all the names, correct? Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said yes we have a list of who has them. This will be brought up at the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2017. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger suggested that we do not take them back, but tell the juniors that if we need them to give out to a new or an active member, we will need to take them, until the junior member is certified, but we are no longer going to issue pagers to any new juniors that come in. Commissioner Lazorchak asked how many members have pagers that don't even use them. Response from everyone, a lot of members don't use them.

- Simulcasting:

- o I have been reporting about the Simulcasting since the big fire last year, and the repeater situation. Been back and forth with insurance payments and technology and UHF is what it is, and shortage. I reported a couple months ago that now we have been officially notified that VA is taking down that water tower. Have been in touch with our radio guy on numerous occasions trying to get a plan B on this. Problem is that in order for us to find a location, the frequencies are VHF and UHF, and we are licensed at that location at a certain height and certain power. If we had different site, different height and different power, we end up over broadcasting. Went and talked to County and they said that we can put it on Zion Tower, but FCC is going to shut us down, and we would broadcast to NYC and beyond. Other option is to find a cell tower and put the stuff on. Every cell tower that I have reached out to is between \$3,000.00-\$5,000.00/month for rent. Commissioner Catrombon said even for Fire Safety Communications? Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said that it is a spot that makes money for that carrier. Commissioner Catrombon, Jr. asked at that height, what is the height we have to go? Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said that right now our license is for 135 feet. Would cost about \$900.00 to have a study done if we were to apply for a new license. The VHF, even though we are the only town that had that capability, since the new radio system allows a back-up UHF System to be used that is not trunked, which is good, however, everyone has access to it. So I have Chip from M&W Radio, who really knows his stuff, trying to see what our other options are, but to be honest, I am not feeling we are going to be able to do this?. Commissioner Carone said that his thoughts on this is forget it, we are going to spend a fortune trying to get this simulcast up, I see some of the benefits, but, what Chief Fire Marshal Weniger is going to go through to get this set up is going to be years, and will be completely obsolete and then it would be a problem with parts. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said that the UHF frequencies are almost literally impossible to get, however, we do have the phone simulcast which is not as good as the pager. I will certainly continue to look to see what our options are, but I don't know what else we can do. We did get the insurance money, which was \$40,000.00, and I'm not saying we should spend that in the next five years, but almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million dollars will need budgeted, because they will be obsolete. Commissioner Lazorchak asked how much the equipment would have been. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger replied about \$40,000.00. Commissioner Catrombon, Jr. asked who owns the tower at Municipal Building. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said that it is privately owned. For them to allow the tower here, they had to put the Police at the top of it. I asked if we could share the top and was told that those frequencies have to be a certain distance from each other to prevent interference, so we cannot do that either. Commissioner Carone again said, my opinion is we scrap the concept of the VHF, great to have it but is going to be a great expense. Commissioner Catrombon, Jr. suggested to leave it as is right now, and also asked what is going on with any tower at VA Depot. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said they are taking the water tank down and rebuilding. We could put it up right now but that tower will be coming down in 6 months, and they are not putting another tower up. They are replacing the building with one building, almost 600,000 square feet. Commissioner Buckley asked how about the Belle Mead Depot tower? Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said that is coming down too, it is an unsafe structure and there is no power out there.

- 36's Engine:
 - o Put in Gov Bids at a \$20,000.00 start. I have already received a bunch of requests for additional information and more photos, copies of records, etc. which is very promising, however, no one has put a bid in and it closes on May 9, 2017. Gov Deals told me that we may want to consider lowering that price to \$10,000.00 and we reserve the right not to accept the lowest bid. Sometimes that will spawn competition. I can tell you that the market for used apparatus 20+ years old, is nothing. An Engine similar to 36's was recently purchased for \$6,000.00. Commissioner Buckley suggested that we donate it. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said if anyone has a lead or contact, let me know as I don't know where to begin with that. Going forward, when we purchase new apparatus to replace apparatus, that unless we have a specific job for it, we trade it right off the bat, that way it is out of our hair. The longer that Engine sits at the Public Works yard, it is going to just eat away. Fire Marshal Giordano goes and starts it once a week. Commissioner Buckley asked if Chief Fire Marshal Weniger could send any information he has on that truck to him. Commissioner Buckley said that Ryan Buckley belongs to an organization that takes fire trucks to burn centers and they set them up so that the kids can have fun with water slides and stuff like that. I know they have a truck that they are using, but they want to spread out over the country. Is there a write off if you donate? Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said HIEF what he would have to do is have a Resolution approved by the Board to donate it.

- Tires for Apparatus:
 - o Next year there are a few trucks we are going to have to put new tires on already. It won't be a dramatic amount of money, but when we start putting the budget together for next year, we will make sure the Board is aware of that.

- Building Enclosure Update:
 - o Bids for the building enclosure are due back on May 9, 2017 in the morning. Have had a few people that had expressed interest in bidding, the problem we are running into is that the bidders are required to bid a prevailing wage, and that turns a lot of contractors away, so I am hoping that at the Commissioners Meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, I can come to the Board and say we got these bids and this is what we recommend, or what does the Board want to do? If we don't get any bids in, then I need to talk to Attorney Braslow and see what our next step is going to be. Commissioner Catrombon, Jr. asked what budget we were given. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said he wasn't really weren't given a budget but have \$50,000.00 put in our budget to cover that, plus other things that may come up. I am hoping this project comes in way below that \$50,000.00. If it came to \$50,000.00, I would recommend we figure something else out to do, a Morton building could be put up for that.

- Compressor's Installation:
 - o Installations should be done at the firehouses by the end of the month. Commissioner Buckley asked if there is any special requirements that these have to go on the outside walls, and an emergency vent that has to vent out. Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said that everything is interior on those. Have already met with all the fire companies for the locations and have started to put the permits in. For a couple of them, we will need to install electricity, so that will be done shortly.

- Other:
 - o 37's Brush truck will probably be delivered and is probably done by now.
 - o Getting into our busy inspection time.
 - o The flashlights has been ordered and delivered to Station 36.
 - o The 2 TIC cameras were ordered.
 - o Have 2 price quotes for a gear washer. Fire Marshal Foelsch has looked them over and says he is happy with them. He did talk to someone when he was at FDIC and wants to give the guy a couple days to come up with something. If we don't hear anything in a couple days, Fire Marshal Giordano will have 2 price quotes which I will have at the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2017. Assuming that the Board says yes, we are right around \$8,500.00. If approved, we can proceed on Wednesday morning.
 - o Talked about the washing machine replacement for Station 37. May want to start thinking about it in 2018. The new machine we are looking at will do 2 sets of gear at a time, and have the base attached. Would have to put together ourselves.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further public comment, **a motion was made by Commissioner Catrombon, Jr., and seconded by Commissioner Lazorchak to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Roll call vote: All approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

John Lazorchak, Secretary
Hillsborough Township
Board of Fire Commissioners

JL/jhb