

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
TOWNSHIP OF HILLSBOROUGH**

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**CLOSED SESSION MEETING**

SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Hillsborough Township, County of Somerset, New Jersey convened in a Closed Session Meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 9:24 p.m. In the Conference Room at the Hillsborough Township Municipal Building on South Branch Road. Commissioner Chairman Charlie Nuara 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 Charlie Nuara, Commissioner John Catrombon Jr., Commissioner John Lazorchak, Commissioner Pat Buckley, Commissioner Mike Carone, and Chief Fire Marshal Weniger. Also present for the first portion of the meeting were: John Sheridan, OEM, Dan Kazar, EMT, Rich Vondenstein, EMT, Michael Calabrese, EMT and Suzanne DeMaio, EMT.

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**

The first portion of the meeting was the EMS Committee proposal.

1. John Sheridan, OEM and EMS Committee Members: Dan Kazar, Rich Vondenstein, Michael Calabrese and Suzanne DeMaio attended the meeting to propose establishing EMS under the Hillsborough Fire District.
  - Committee asked the Board how they feel about this.
    - o Board talked about this once they heard about the Squad.
    - o Board is in favor of this.
2. Board asked what their vision of the future is.
  - a. Fire & Rescue combined.
  - b. Utilize existing EMT's from Hillsborough Squad.
  - c. Solely volunteer initially.
  - d. Starting out by providing Rehab to fire calls.
  - e. Ambulance at each house.

- f. In future, ease into EMS calls.
- g. Ultimate goal is 24/7 coverage.
- h. Paid EMS for Hillsborough Township.

3. EMS Committee asked “how could we set this up”?

- Another Fire Company in Town.
- Hillsborough Fire Department Bureau of EMS.
- Same concept, under Fire Marshal Office.
- No affiliation with Hillsborough Rescue Squad.
- Create new name or bureau.
- New organization.
- Another division under Fire District.
- New training.
- Under Fire Department with our own Leadership.
- - o Suggestions from Commissioners and Chief Fire Marshal:
    - Put Sub-Committee together. Board is comfortable with this and in favor.
    - Get policies and procedures made.
    - Form membership.
    - Other miscellaneous things that need to get worked out.
    - Start out by doing Rehab for Fire District.
    - See how it goes, take one step at a time.
    - See where we are next year when doing budget.
    - What equipment is available?
    - Facility to store ambulances. Several people had some ideas and will look into.
    - Board oversees.
    - Today is a very different time and could be cumbersome to start a new organization.

4. Other items discussed:

- EMS Committee would like to have John Sheridan, OEM, Chief Fire Marshal Weniger, and one Commissioner on the Committee.
- Suzanne has spoken with Mayor Ferrara about this. Township has expressed volunteer EMS to come back.
- Certified by Medicare.
- Transporting after 2019.
- Will require a lot of work to put this together.
- Timeframe to institute – several months or 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2018.
- Not easy to get a large amount of volunteers.
- Could be helpful with getting more firefighter volunteers.
- Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older.
- 3 ambulances would be needed.
- 2 certified EMT's on a licensed ambulance.
- Ambulances were pretty much stripped. Not much left in them.
- Committee will make proposal to Township.

John Sheridan, OEM and EMS Committee Members concluded their portion of the meeting departed.

The following was discussed:

1. 37 New Truck:

- Changes that were made to apparatus.
- 37 asking for more equipment, i.e., fans, imaging camera, etc.
- 37 wants a light tower. Board Members do not feel that is necessary as there are enough apparatus in the District with light towers.
- Chief Fire Marshal Weniger said that maybe he could be of help by investigating the age and condition of some of the existing equipment.
- Comparisons are needed.
- After the signing of the drawings, Commissioner Buckley will email to all Commissioner for response.

2. Extrication Certificates:

It was brought to the Board's attention that it was noticed that 2 of the extrication certificates did not look like the other certificates. Commissioner Nuara asked Commissioner Buckley if he could look at all the Hillsborough Members extrication certificates at the Academy to review and compare them.

3. Rescue Truck Request to South Plainfield:

- Commissioner Buckley asked the Board if the Rescue Truck could be taken to South Plainfield on September 2, 2017. The Board approved this at the August Regular Meeting.
- The Rescue Truck did not go to South Plainfield on September 2, 2017, because Administrator Anthony Ferrera said no, even though the Board said yes. A Line Officer complained to John Sheridan, OEM and he went to the Administrator.
- Commissioner Nuara will schedule an appointment with May Ferrara to discuss this.

3. Recent Fire at Auten Road High Rise Building:

- As a follow up from the Critique of the Auten Road Fire, received a letter from Mike Guzy from Station 36 regarding the pressure problems during the Auten Road Fire. A recommendation was made for equipment that we should strive to provide in each rig in the District to carry standpipe hose/tools. (*Refer to attachments in the Work Meeting Minutes*).
- Board decided that they will continue using the equipment they currently have, as it is working fine.
- Will discuss this again in the future.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further comment, **a motion was made by Commissioner Nuara, and seconded by Commissioner Catrombon, Jr. to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 p.m. Roll call vote: All approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

John Lazorchak, Secretary  
Hillsborough Township  
Board of Fire Commissioners

JL/jhb