

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
TOWNSHIP OF HILLSBOROUGH**

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**COMMISSIONERS / CHIEF CJ DAVIS
CLOSED MEETING**

JULY 10, 2014

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Hillsborough Township, County of Somerset, New Jersey convened in a Commissioner/Chief Session on Thursday, July 10, 2014 at 9:15 pm. in the Conference Room at the Hillsborough Fire Company #2 Building on Route 206. Commission Vatter 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 Bruce Vatter, Commissioner John Catrombon, Jr., and Commissioner Charlie Nuara. Commissioner Greg Kane and Commissioner Nick Patullo were absent.

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

1. GOG's :

Chief Davis asked if all three Hillsborough Fire Companies and Neshanic Volunteer Fire Company are together in a District, and are specific rules and GOG's the same across the board? Is this do as I say not as I do? There are no specific rules. Want to know where 48 stands as far as certain GOG's since we are contracted through Hillsborough Fire District, but are a Branchburg Township Company. The Commissioners replied that Neshanic is a Contracted Company, and therefore needs to abide by the GOG's rules and regulations. Commissioner Vatter said that a Contracted Company is totally different from Mutual Aid. Chief Davis mentioned that Neshanic Fire Company was told they could not have representation on the GOG Committee, and that Neshanic needs to be part of the processes and needs to be able to voice their opinions at the table. The Commissioners said that their needs to be another meeting with the GOG Committee to review and come to an understanding as to Neshanic's standing in the District and that they should be able to have a representative on the Committee. Commissioner Nuara will speak to Commissioner Patullo to set up another meeting.

2. Turn-Out Gear:

Chief Davis asked: Do the Drivers need to have interior gear? Our gear does have a thermal barrier and a 10 minute flame rating before getting 2nd degree burns. We bought this gear a couple years ago specifically for Drivers, and do not have the money in the budget to purchase all new gear for them. Discussion concluded that as long as the Drivers stay out of the "Hot Zone", keeping in mind that the spacing at each fire scene is different, they can continue using the gear that they currently have. The Drivers do need to be in their turn-out gear, air pack certified, no facial hair, and pass the breathing part of their physical. Commissioner Nuara will look at the specifications. Maybe tags could be made stating "Driver" so everyone knows they cannot be in the "Hot Zone". Commissioners asked Chief Davis to compose a letter stating all members that have non-structural

gear will remain outside of the “Hot Zone” on fire scenes.

3. Fire Company Clothing:

Commissioner Nuara said that it is his understanding that Class A, Class B and any shirts that say “Fire Company” cannot be worn in an establishment that serves alcohol. Commissioner Nuara is going to speak with Commissioner Patullo about changing the GOG regarding shirts that are not Class A or Class B that they can be worn in public establishments.

4. Response to Fire Calls:

Chief Davis inquired as to why 48 cannot have command in their primary area if a Captain can respond to the scene should a Neshanic Chief not be available. The GOG’s state that Chiefs are the only ones that should go directly to a scene, and an Officer is to be on the first apparatus leaving the station. Chief Davis mentioned that all Neshanic Chiefs are generally out of the area during the day for their work, which makes it hard to have a Chief on the scene to establish command, therefore, the Captain would be responding to the scene.

Commissioner Vatter mentioned that the Commissioners want to avoid the issues with response, and that they need to be handled between the Chiefs.

5. Radio Programming:

Chief Davis stated that Neshanic’s radios cannot be programmed to meet the Radio GOG Specifications due to the fact that Neshanic covers two separate townships with multiple frequencies needed in each. If the Commissioners are willing to purchase radios for all Neshanic members we will have them programmed to match the GOG. The Commissioners said that the purchase of new radios is not an option, and that the radios can remain programmed as they are.

6. Neshanic Volunteer Fire Company Contract with Hillsborough Township:

Once changes are made by the Commissioners, the contract will need to be signed by the Chief and President.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Catarombon, Jr., and seconded by Commissioner Vatter to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Roll call vote: All approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Vatter, Secretary
Hillsborough Township
Board of Fire Commissioners

BV/jhb