**Board of Fire Commissioners, District II**

**November 7th,2022**

Vice PresidentMark Sheppard opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

The American Flag was then saluted, and the Lord’s Prayer was recited prior to the start of the meeting.

**Members participating were:**

Mark Sheppard,Fred Hundt, Bill Horseman, Cliff Sharp, Ron Sutton Jr. Cliff Sharp

President Cliff Sharp arrived and continued the duties of the President.

At this time Mark introduced Cheryl Ward from CPA accounting firm in Marmora N.J. Mark had called her and asked if she would address the board on her business’s services.

Mrs Ward explained to the Commission about her business and some of the services that her firm can provide to the Commission. Included services but not all were paying bills,chasing down the vouchers, helping to prepare the budget, typing and preparations of resolutions, taking care of advertising. She also explained that her firm should not do the auditing.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the October 3rd meeting were sent to all via email. Motion was made to accept the minutes byMark Sheppard and secondedby Bill Horseman. All those present voted to approve the minutes from the October 3rdCommissioners meeting.

**Treasurers Report:**

A copy of the Treasurers report for the last monthwas handed out by Treasurer Fred Hundt.

The detailed report showed all transactions since the June 6thmeeting. The beginning balance on the report was $252,705.64

The ending balance was $239,703.34. Motion to accept the report was made by Mark Sheppard andwas seconded by Cliff Sharp.

Roll call vote was taken:

Mark Sheppard. Yes

Fred HundtYes

Bill Horseman Yes

Cliff Sharp Yes

Ron Sutton Yes

Ron Sutton then made amotion to pay all bills for this period and it was seconded byBill Horseman.

Roll call vote was taken:

Mark Sheppard. Yes

Fred Hundt Yes

Bill Horseman Yes

Cliff Sharp Yes

Ron Sutton Yes

**Old Business:**

We will now be have a special meeting todayNovember 7th, 2022 from 6:00PM till 9:00PM. Approval to spend up to $75,000 for a pick up is being voted on by the public. The ads were placed in two newspapers at least 10 days prior to the meeting. Notice of this meeting was posted in 5 different places where the public can see the notice. A copy was given to the Commercial Township Clerk. The meeting is taking place today at the Fire Hall located at 9544 Noble Street in Mauricetown.

The ice sled has now been delivered.

The Fire Company sat down and discussed the future of the fire company. There were members that represent both the fire commission and the fire company at this meeting Many ideas were discussed. A few were to move EMS equipment off the 1222 and place it on 1221 and start using the larger rescue truck as the first responder unit which would open space for the ice sled and gumby suits during the winter months. It was decided to try this suggestion. It was discussed that the fire company may have to look into a commercial 2 door chassis tender when the time is right to replace the 30 year old Pierce 1202 tanker. There was discussion about someday replacing rescue 1221 with a re chassis instead an entirely new unit. The overall meeting was successful in getting everyone’s ideas and concerns. The cost of new equipment is now outrageous and other means will have to be taken in order to keep the current fleet that we now have.

Fred suggested that if he commission is considering any purchase they should get the wheels in motion. Delivery of new apparatus is now out 36 to 40 months with no foreseen reduction in the entire industry. With that being said no payments would be required for at least 4 years.

Don Hundt Jr gave us an update on the conversion of our current hydraulic rescue tools. Holmatro will not be upgrading any tools from hydraulic to electric. They have a new line coming out and it appears that they will be only selling new and not upgrades.

**New Business:**

Mark presented the commission with a resolution that was now required to get the treasurer and secretary their annual pay. It needed to be passed and reviewed by the Township Committee. This is a new procedure that the State has put in place. The resolution was # 11-22-01 pay for secretary and treasurer. He was taking the signed copy to the clerk’s office.

Roll Call Vote:

Mark Sheppard. Yes

Fred Hundt Yes

Bill Horseman Yes

Cliff Sharp Yes

Ron Sutton Yes

The Commissioners then reviewed the current budget and made the transfer of moneys to different line items. The attached resolution #11-22-02 was created and voted on.

After the following discussion in was then decided to add some money to the line items that fell short in this current years budget. These changes were to be sent to the Auditors office so that they could prepare the Fire Districts Annual 2023 Budget. It was also suggested that they should be updated on the special election we had to allow for the spending in the next year for a utility unit if the need is still there.

We also were to tell the Auditors that it is our intention to adopt the 2023 budget at the December meeting and do the final passage at the January meeting.

Also, the Commission has created an additional resolution # 11-22-02 allowing for the transfers to take place per the state guidelines. Attached is a copy of that resolution.

Mark Sheppard. Yes

Fred Hundt Yes

Bill Horseman Yes

Cliff Sharp Yes

Ron Sutton Yes

Mark asked about the website being updated and that it needed to be done before Trenton will approve next year’s budget. Fred has been assigned to get this done as quickly as possible.

**Chiefs Comments:**

Chief Hundt discussed the meeting between the fire company on what they thought the direction should be and that it was a productive and positive meeting.

**Public Portion:**

Meeting was opened to the public. Steve added to the meeting that he is still looking for grants for turnout gear and that a new pickup grant was unlikely at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40PM

Fred Hundt, Secretary