

The six hundred eighty-second meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, District #2, Gloucester Township was held in the Chews Landing Fire Station on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 7:30 PM. The meeting was opened with the flag salute.

Commissioners present were: Donahue, Reichert, Ritz, Genzel.  
Solicitor Carlamere was present.

#### Chief's Report:

Talked about drills being posted, will be listed on the dry erase board in engine room. Most drills are set up until March.

Talked to Glendora Chief Ricciardelli about the accident letter received by District #1. Working on accident responses with 81 in the Black Horse Pike area.

Santa run went well.

GT chiefs meeting coming up soon, will be discussing haz-mat and other items.

The fire company is up around 70 members now.

The chief addressed issues/rumors in regard to the incentive program:

- Asked the board if the \$15,000 balance was going to be paid. The board stated that they are still working on the situation.
- Mentioned that rumors have been going around saying how he was going to take money in 2014 directly from the incentive program as his stipend. He stated that he had an idea to, along with the \$6 per night that the duty officer gets, a \$13 per night stipend would be instituted for having the chief's car. This would amount to about \$5,000, which was the rumor that was heard about how much was going to go to the chief. The chief said that approximately \$7,000 total would be spent for the chiefs and officers in that type of set-up and \$8,000 would be left for the members. He said he does not want to make that kind of decision to take money from the members and preferred that the board fund his stipend directly and not take from the members as had been discussed prior with the board. The board's response was that they provided the \$15,000 for the incentive in addition to the LOSAP program. The \$15,000 is the chief's program to do with what he wished but there will not be any additional funds added as of now. The chief stated that if that was the case it wasn't fair to him and he would probably be stepping down.

#### Administrator's Report:

Work on the shop roof started today, may be done by the weekend.

The first payroll done with Paychex had quite a few issues, Mike is working to get things corrected.

The board requested that the auditor be asked if the administrator can be made a signer for pay checks.

A ton of work has been done on corrections to the proposed budget, Solicitor Carlamere will address this later.

Maryann asked the commissioners to RSVP for the fire co. dinner asap so a final count can be done.

Group Report: "A" Treasurer; Building Maintenance; Park  
First draft of 12/31 final budget report was reviewed.

Solicitor Carlamere presented resolutions to be made to correct proposed 2014 budget. He stated that once these resolutions are made, the public hearing can be held.

Resolution by K. Donahue seconded by N. Ritz to correct the amount to be raised by taxation to \$1,777,050.00.

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Absent; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

Resolution by K. Donahue seconded by J. Reichert to amend SS-5A by \$23 to reflect the correct amounts in pension line items.

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Absent; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

#### 2014 Public Budget Hearing

The proposed 2014 budget was presented. Opened for public comments/questions. Having heard none a resolution was made by N. Ritz seconded by K. Donahue to close the public portion of the hearing and to adopt the budget as presented.

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Absent; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

Resolution by K. Donahue seconded by N. Ritz stating that all budget procedures as required by the State of New Jersey were followed in the adoption of the 2014 budget.

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Absent; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

Resolution by K. Donahue seconded by N. Ritz to adopt a temporary budget as per NJ statute.

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Absent; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

K. Donahue said that Paychex is to be funded through the office expense line item.

#### Group Report: "C" Apparatus and Equipment

(R. Evans absent, given by G. Karas)

822 seat switch was replaced.

Minor repair done on 829.

Did pump shift repair on 821 and 822.

822 is now running first out.

#### Group Report: "B" Fire Prevention; EMS

Monthly report reviewed.

5 county meeting was held here in December.

#### Group Report: "D" Insurance; Hydrants; Uniforms; Radios

No report.

#### Group Report: "E" Personnel; Training; Office

No report.

#### Old Business:

No report.

#### New Business:

Motion by K. Donahue seconded by J. Reichert to accept the attached receipts.

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Absent; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

Motion by K. Donahue seconded by J. Reichert to pay the attached bills.

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Absent; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

#### Good of the District/Public:

G. Karas gave an atta boy to the department for handling 26 calls during the recent stretch of bad weather.

G. Genzel announced that Chief Gerace has just submitted a letter of resignation to the board.

G. Genzel said that he thanks the chief for his time served.

Nick Ritz (Captain, Chews Landing Fire Co.) and Commissioner N. Ritz both publicly expressed their disagreement with the resignation of Chris Gerace based on their opinion that some type of injustice was done regarding the payment of a stipend for the chief. The situation got loud and Chairman Genzel demanded order in the room.

Motion by N. Ritz seconded by J. Reichert to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters. Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Absent; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes. (8:10 PM)

Motion by N. Ritz seconded by J. Reichert to adjourn closed session at 9:21 PM. Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Absent; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

(K. Donahue began recording at this point)

Motion to recess the meeting due to a fire call. Motion carried.

Closed session dealt with personnel in regards to the chief's resignation letter centered around incentive program funding. During closed session discussion, the Board was of the opinion that some iniquities were present in the funding and administration of the incentive line item which resulted in the chief's resignation. Recognizing the iniquities the Board agreed to work in FY14 to correct the iniquities.

Chairman Genzel asked Chief Gerace to consider withdrawing his resignation letter. The Chief agreed to do so.

Comm Ritz made an apology to Chair Genzel for public comments made prior to closed session to Chair Genzel.

This concluded the business of the evening. A motion to adjourn was made by N. Ritz seconded by J. Reichert and carried. To reconvene for a regular meeting on February 12, 2014 at 7:30 PM. Meeting adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Read and Approved:

Chairman:

Clerk: