

**TOWNSHIP OF PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
REGULAR MEETING
August 23rd , 2023, 7:30 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No.1 was called to order at 7:29 PM by Commissioner Berry at the Tarn Drive Firehouse at 909 Tabor Road, Morris Plains, New Jersey.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Berry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. STATEMENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of August 23, 2023 was included in a list of meetings notice sent to The Daily Record and advertised in said newspaper on December 9, 2022, posted on the bulletin board in the Parsippany-Troy Hills Municipal Building, 1001 Parsippany Boulevard, Parsippany, New Jersey, and the Mount Tabor Firehouse, 909 Tarn Road on December 9, 2022, and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Township Clerk and at the Mount Tabor Fire House.

4. ROLL CALL

Commissioners present: Berry, Ferdinandi, Jamieson, Masker

Department Representation: Chie Crawford via Zoom

Department Counsel Mr. Peter King also in attendance

5. AGENDA REVIEW

President Berry reviewed the agenda for this meeting.

6. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Minutes from the regular July meeting were distributed by Commissioner Hazel to all Commissioners to review prior to this meeting. Minutes from the regular July meeting were approved via a motion by Commissioner Jamieson, seconded by Commissioner Masker, and carried by unanimous vote.

7. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

No communications were received at this meeting.

8. RESOLUTIONS:

No resolutions were brought forward at this meeting.

9. REPORTS

i. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's monthly report for July 2023 declaring operating expenses of \$28,021.52 was read and distributed for all Commissioners to review.

Significant expenses included \$10,960 to Nisivoccia & Co. for audit services; \$4,050 to Waterway Inc. for annual hose testing; and \$1,762.40 to Mistras for annual ladder testing.

3rd quarter incentive checks were distributed to members.

ii. Truck Report

Phoenix Fire will come on Tuesday take Rescue 14 to check on lights and axel alignment.

Old 619 contract has been signed and returned. It may need a new battery.

iii. Radio Report

No report

iv. Insurance Report

No report.

v. Purchasing Report

Received a quote for new doorbell, phone, and audio system for Tarn Drive and Powdermill firehouses for \$6,900 with a monthly phone service charge of \$165.

vi. Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention now has county radios channels available to them.

vii. Joint Board Meeting Report

Meeting took place at District 2. No updates.

viii. Chief's Report

282 Calls to date; 70 have been mutual aid given.

1500 Littleton Road project (250 Senior Apartments + Assisted Living) demolition is in progress.

Training/Event: 8/24 - Hose Stretches/Pumping, 8/31 - Boonton Parade Clean Up, 9/4 - Boonton Parade, 9/7 - CEVO Driving Course, 9/10 - PR/Fire Prevention Detail at Adath Shalom, 9/10 - County 9/11 Memorial, and 9/21 - RIC drill at Academy (D4 joining).

3 Members currently in Fire Inspector class

NFIRS Program: ERS bought out by ESO a few years ago. We can switch at any time, sooner is better due to lack of support for the current ERS program. The annual fee will increase from \$2,000 to \$3,021.50 annually. Will try to switch over in Q1 2024.

Departments continue to have issues with manpower across the county.

Manpower: The average member responds to 30% (not including still alarms) alarms. Member average across all alarms is 37%. We are averaging 9 members per call (not all interior). Averaging 5.84 members on apparatus per call. Averaging 2.33 members per apparatus (not including Chief Vehicles). Averaging 3.29 members at the building per call (not on apparatus)

Biggest hurdles right now: Inconsistent response from members. Lacking interior firefighters on apparatus. Spread out due to geographical difficulties.

Average Response times from dispatch to scene improved in 2023 versus 2022:

E12: 11.62 minutes (2023) versus 13.41 minutes (2022)

E13: 11.56 minutes (2023) versus 12.22 minutes (2022)

E15: 11.34 minutes (2023) versus 12.17 minutes (2022)

R14: 12.83 minutes (2023) versus 16.68 minutes (2022)

T11: 11.21 minutes (2023) versus 12.03 minutes (2022)

U16: 13.2 minutes (2023) versus 18.32 minutes (2022)

Officers are working out shift sign up schedule to help with consistent staffing. Hoping to iron out and present by Q4 after having discussions with the membership.

Recruitment is subpar. We are unable to get applications.

10. INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments presented.

11. APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE

A motion to pay pending bills was made by Commissioner Jaimeson, seconded by Commissioner Ferdinandi, and carried by unanimous vote.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session took place at this meeting.

13. OLD BUSINESS

The topic of last month's presented resolution was revisited. Some ideas and concerns from the public were presented. It was tasked to the fire officers to come up with a potential plan on staffing the firehouse using the current incentive program.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Commissioner Masker to discontinue current VOIP service and pursue Quick Cooper Communications as presented by Commissioner Masker during the purchasing section of this meeting. Vote was carried and passed unanimously.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, a motion to close was made by Commissioner Jamieson, seconded by Commissioner Jamieson, and carried by unanimous vote at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Louis Ferdinandi

Commissioner