

**TOWNSHIP OF PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 27<sup>th</sup> , 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 7:38 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 September 27, 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, Hazel, Jamieson, Masker

Commissioners absent: Ferdinandi

Department Representation: Chief Crawford

5. AGENDA REVIEW

President Berry reviewed the agenda for this meeting.

6. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

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

7. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

No communications were received at this meeting.

## 8. RESOLUTIONS:

No resolutions were voted on at this meeting.

## 9. REPORTS

### i. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's monthly report for September 2023 declaring operating expenses of \$38,663.06 was read and distributed for all Commissioners to review.

Significant expenses included \$7,315 to K2 Electric Tarn Drive Firehouse repairs and Powder Mill lighting improvement; \$5,501.50 to FF1 for harnesses and rope systems; and \$4,000 to Quick Copper for Tarn Drive phone and paging system upgrade.

Receipts included \$325,485.75 for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter tax revenue and \$775 for reimbursement for repairs from Par-Troy EMS.

### ii. Truck Report

Tower 11 - Outriggers were sluggish to stow after the 9/11 memorial.

Engine 13 - Camera system was fixed.

Rescue 14 – Onboard air compressor still running. Light upgrade quoted at \$8,000 will cost \$1,200 to be performed in-house. \$800 will be needed to buy brackets.

Engine 15 – Foam Pro is not working.

New trucks are being pushed to May-July 2024 due to engine supplier issues.

Tower 11's buyer fell through. A new department is interested in purchasing Tower 11.

### iii. Radio Report

New pagers being distributed. Radio traffic speakers are now working as anticipated. We will be converting to ESO incident reporting as soon as possible.

### iv. Insurance Report

No report.

### v. Purchasing Report

Phone system upgrade is complete.

### vi. Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention has scheduled school visits for Fire Prevention week.

### vii. Joint Board Meeting Report

No report.

viii. Chief's Report

321 Calls to date; 83 have been mutual aid given.

Upcoming events: 9/28 - Hazmat Refresher (In House), 10/5 - Open House Clean Up, 10/7 - Open House, 10/19 - High Rise Ops @ Academy, 10/26 - Elevator Awareness, 10/29 - Elevator Ops, 11/6 - Elevator Ops.

Three members are currently in the Fire Inspector Class. NFIRS will be transitioning to ESO – online training required. Chiefs are interested in attending ESO Wave Conference in April 2024.

Grant was delayed due to the Lt. Governor passing away.

Manpower: Member average of calls is 29% (not including still alarms). Member average overall is 36%. Averaging 8 members per call (not all interior). Averaging 5.7 members on apparatus per call. Averaging 2.3 members per apparatus (not including Chief Vehicles). Averaging 3 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. Recruitment results are inadequate despite expanding and increasing efforts – no new applications.

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)

10. INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments presented.

11. APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE

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

## 12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session took place at this meeting.

## 13. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Masker makes motion we sell Tower 11 for \$80,000 to the new interested department. Commissioner Jamieson seconds. The motion is carried by a unanimous vote.

Manpower continues to be a problem:

Current Shift Schedule Program Parameters:

- Monday – Friday, 06:00 - 22:00 (end at 18:00 on Thursday) in 4 hour blocks.
- Must be at the Firehouse (Tarn to start)
- 1 Driver, 1 Officer (acting), 1 FF - Can have 2nd FF and/or exterior in addition to the minimum.
- Pay 1 credit per hour (Can incentive checks be written monthly?)
- Chores/Tasks, Maintenance, training to be assigned each shift.
- A junior officer is responsible for admin each day of the week.
- Captain Ciccaglione will manage all tasks/Chores and review.
- Chiefs will not sign up unless they deem it necessary based on manpower.

There is approximately \$200,000 budgeted for the incentive program this year. \$400,000 will likely be needed for in-house staffing through the current incentive proposal. This will be above the 2% increase cap and would require a public question to secure funding.

The idea of hiring part time firefighters was explored further with many factors being considered for drafting into a formal resolution including how Per Diems will be managed and the significant cost of equipping part-time firefighters with the cost of turnout gear now near \$7,000. Staffing would not likely be available to perform firefighting duties until June 2024 given funding constraints and assumptions on acquiring potential part-time employees. The current per call incentive program would remain in place for qualified responding firefighters from the Mount Tabor Volunteer Fire Department.

## 14. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed at this meeting.

## 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 9:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerard Hazel

Commissioner