

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

June 10, 2013

Chairman Hansch called the meeting to order on the above mentioned date at 8:00 pm, at the Fire Commissioner's office at 434 Route 10, Whippany, NJ.

Commissioners present: M. Mihalko, Barz, J. Mihalko, Cobane & Hansch

Absent: None

Also Present: Chief Cortright, Chief Davidson, and George Coppola, Township Committee liaison

At this time the Chairman read the following: Pursuant to statutes made and provided, let the minutes show that notice of this meeting was transmitted to the following newspapers: The Regional weekly and the Daily Record and filed with the clerk of the Township of Hanover and the Clerk of this Board.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The chairman called for the acceptance of the pre-meeting minutes and the regular minutes from last month. Comm. Cobane made a motion to accept last month's minutes. The move was seconded by Comm. J. Mihalko and it was carried by the following vote:

AYES: M. Mihalko, Barz, J. Mihalko, Cobane & Hansch

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

TREASURER'S REPORT

The following Treasurer's report was submitted. Comm. Cobane moved that we accept the Treasurer's Report. Comm. Barz seconded the move and it was carried by the following vote:

AYES: M. Mihalko, Barz, J. Mihalko, Cobane & Hansch

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

General Checking Account #7859643244

TD Bank

Balance On Hand - April 30, 2013	\$171,360.68
May Checks	(\$60,549.34)

Deposits for the Month of May 2013

115 SJ Investors	Permits & Fees	\$42.00
115 SJ Investors	Permits & Fees	\$497.00
State of NJ	2nd Qtr rebate	\$2,992.60
J&R Tobacco	Permits & Fees	\$42.00
Breeze Eastern	Permits & Fees	\$42.00
Township of Hanover	District Taxes	\$18.39
Interest	TD Bank	\$36.50
Interest	TD Bank	\$4.51

Balance on Hand, May 31, 2013

\$114,486.34

TD Bank Money Market

Balance on Hand May 31, 2013

\$2,727.12**Payroll Checking Account # 7859643251****TD Bank**

Balance on Hand May 31, 2013

\$747.74**Active Assets Account #615 108684 107****Morgan Stanley/Smith Barney**

Balance on Hand May 31, 2013

\$1,015,026.56

Checks Submitted This Month's Meeting

\$86,553.67**CHIEF'S / FIRE OFFICIAL REPORT and COMMENTS**

The following Chief's report was submitted for approval.

A motion to accept this report was made by Comm. J. Mihalko and seconded by Comm. Cobane. It was passed by the following vote:

AYES: M. Mihalko, Barz, J. Mihalko, Cobane & Hansch

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

Supplies, Equipment, and Maintenance

- Office supplies were purchased at Staples.
- Fire Fighters repaired one SCBA and recharged two extinguishers.

Apparatus

- Air leak was repaired on Engine 83.

Training

- Training topics for the month of June will be ventilation and standpipe/pumping operations.
- Training topics for the month of May we went to the fire academy and also trained with the new search rope system.

Purchases

- No purchase requests.

Fire Prevention

- (54) Inspections / re-inspections were conducted last month and \$1243.00 dollars in permits were collected.

EMS

- (25) Calls were answered last month and we assisted with 3 transport.

Fire

- (55) Calls were answered last month.

Other Matters and Announcements

- Matt Downey spent 3 weeks during the day working at the station to experience the day to day operations of the department for his senior project. Matt participated in the following assignments:
 - Answering Fire and EMS emergencies.
 - Fire Inspections
 - Apparatus maintenance

- Station maintenance
- Fire Prevention class for school children
- Inventoried all equipment that has been issued to members and entered it into the computer system.

If feel this project that Matt did was worthwhile to everyone who was involved. Matt participated and observed the Career Staff each day he was here. I made sure before his last week started that we had hit all of his goals and objectives for the project. I completed an exit interview with him after he was completed and wanted to know what he liked and/or disliked about his 3 weeks here. He was particularly interested in the EMS service that we provide and has since decided that while he is away at college he will be taking an EMT class that is offered at the college. If in the future another member asks to do this type of project I would support it 100%.

- The Flag Retirement Ceremony will be held on Monday June 17, 2013.
- The fireworks display will be on Tuesday July 2nd rain date will be the 3rd.
- I still have not heard back from ISO regarding their recent visit.
- Bayer cancelled the river clean up and will be rescheduling it to be held on October 7th.
- The Red Bulls should be moving into their new facility on Melanie Lane before the end of the month.
- We will be recertifying the HTPD in CPR/AED over the next few weeks.
- The Hanover Sewer Authority is interested in getting some employees trained in CPR/AED.
- The new owners of the Final Round Boxing facility on Algonquin Parkway stopped in and asked if we could train some of their employees in CPR/AED. I advised them I would get back to them with a price. The new facility will be known as the Whippany Athletic Club.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter from Genesis Engineering donation of \$2000 for help with the Bayer location.
- Audit is back. Town will get their copy tomorrow and so will the newspaper.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel: Nothing at this time.

Building: Nothing at t his time.

Apparatus: Engine 81 – After the meeting, we need to set up a phone call to KME and move that along.

Insurance: Nothing new at this time.

Dinner: In the works.

First Aid: It was reported that EMS responded to 25 calls this month, and 3 transports.

At this time, Comm. Barz brought up the question of whether our men should be going out of our district and whether Cedar Knolls should pay us if they do.

Ron: As a Board, we only have to supply fire safety – NOT EMS. He personally would like to see our people NOT leave our district. Even when it's 2-3 hours, it's leaving our townspeople unprotected from fire.

Cedar Knolls has 3 calls at a time sometimes. No one can handle that, so they have to deal with that. Let them stay here where we're PAYING them to do a job.

J. Mihalko – Those multiple calls – that's what Mutual Aid is for.

Henry Hansch – If there are multiple calls, something serious has happened. If we are available, and it's in our township, isn't valuable time being lost while mutual aid is being called in?

Barz – If our guy is on a call in Cedar Knolls, and there's a house fire, our most experienced people are the ones not available to respond immediately.

Hansch – It's not being abused. It's only 2 calls per month.

Barz – It's not about that. It's about safety.

Comm. Hansch asked Ian Bell, Firefighter and EMT, for his opinion.

Ian Bell – I think we should provide the services to the town. Most times we're already on the call and that's when we help. In my opinion, Life should take precedence over anything.

If we're already there, should we wait for Parsippany to respond? Sometimes we're doing CPR and it doesn't make sense not to go.

Barz – Let's either do it all or do nothing. It's the same as the stupid calls. Officers should answer then and not FOUR fire trucks and 8 guys.

We keep asking the town to step in but they don't want to get involved.

George Coppola – You are 2 separate entities. You have your own budgets. It's not for the town to step in.

Barz – We've asked the town how much other ambulance services cost, with no answer. Did they look at other services?

Hansch – They obviously didn't. They signed the paper with Cedar Knolls as the sole provider.

Barz – The only reason our EMTs go out on calls is because Cedar Knolls didn't want them. They are told to go while they wait for an ambulance to arrive.

Our EMTs should respond to Whippany calls but stay in our district – NOT go to the hospital on transports.

At this time, Chief Jim Davidson was questioned as to why Whippany was asked NOT to respond to calls in Cedar Knolls.

Davidson – On that, if I need help, I'll call Joe and we will do the right thing. The township can see our survival rate – our cardio and traumatic injury rate. We work well together.

In order for each person to be in the ambulance, I need a background check, a personnel file, etc.. We have to have records on them.

As a licensed agency, we HAVE to have licensed EMTs in the ambulance.

Barz – Well then, aren't you in trouble when our guys ride?

Davidson – I'd be willing to stand up and say that for the 16 times per year that there are people from the Whippany Fire Dept riding in the ambulance, that I can vouch that District 2 does background checks and has licensed EMTs and we know who they are, etc...

If we could manage to talk to each other, and make a town program we'd both contribute to; if we're both participating and contributing, Whippany wouldn't have to be back billed. There are lots of winning possibilities here but we'd have to talk to each other, work out legal documents, and be licensed by the state.... There's a lot to look into.

Barz – Why would licensing need to change all that?

Davidson – We deal with the government. We still have to follow rules. The ambulance has to go to Trenton for inspections. They check the suction – everything. Who does a Medicaid check go to? We would need a piece of paper to answer each question that would arise. I think we could do a CONSOLIDATED EMS. How to do it? We'd have to hire people and we'd have to figure out how to integrate fire personnel in there.

Barz – you're almost set up like that now.

Davidson – We still have only about 20 per diems total. And we still would have to talk to each other.

At this time Comm. Barz made the motion that we change nothing beyond what we're doing right now and look into ways to better the EMS delivery and service and response to the people of the town. The motion was seconded by Comm. J. Mihalko and passed by the following vote:

AYES: M. Mihalko, Barz, J. Mihalko, Cobane & Hansch

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

Comm. Mike Mihalko added at this time, that meeting with Cedar Knolls 4 times a year doesn't cut it. Someone from here should be attending their meetings as Jim Davidson does with ours. We should meet with them at least a few more times a year.

With more communication, there may not have been that poorly written letter and none of that would have happened. Someone would have just explained to us that, by law, this is what we need to do, etc... We could have just talked it out and solved it.

FIRE COMPANY AND RELOCATION:

Nothing at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Training – Comm. Hansch has provided a rough survey for the Board to look at. It would be sent to the guys to ask them what they get out of training and other questions. Comm. Davidson said he would be interested also. Chad is his point guy and he works well with Paul.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt Downey was thanked for his internship here at the firehouse. He explained what he did for his 78 hour Senior Project in order to graduate. He learned a lot from the guys, went on Fire and EMS calls, did maintenance, inventory and now would like to pursue an interest in EMT work during college.

Comm. Cobane – Spoke of making a motion that any time any outside outfits are going to do training for our guys, that the Board is notified ahead of time. Also, at certain drills, all 4 paid guys show up and get paid time and a half.

The Chief answered that in the beginning of the year, the training budget was increased and a list of training that would take place was discussed with the Board.

Comm. J. Mihalko mentioned that they may need reminding.

Comm. Cobane asked that they Board be refreshed 1 month before the trainer comes in so they know about it. The Chief said he would try to do that but sometimes the training changes.

Comm. M. Mihalko said that in the beginning of the year, we give the Chief a Training budget and we should trust him to order training as he sees fit, as long as he doesn't go over budget.

Barz – The Fire Company needs help with paying bills. How are we going to manage when they build the Taj Mahal up on the hill? We need Fred to answer “Where are we?” and “What the hell are we doing?”

Comm. J. Mihalko – If Fred can't be here, he should send someone from the relocation committee.

Hansch – They should, but sometimes there's nothing going on.

Barz – I don't see a FOR SALE sign yet on the firehouse. It can take 6 months to a year to sell.

Hansch – We definitely would like Fred to come in and we will ask him to next month.

PUBLIC PART OF THE MEETING

George Coppola – Township Update:

- The town has requested to move the election locations from Salem Drive and WPHS to this firehouse. Mountview School would go into the Cedar Knolls Firehouse. All this needs to be approved by The Board of Elections. 80% of polling locales are public domain and the board could vote to keep them where they are. We have no say in it. We could use the bays here as some firehouses do, or this building (434 Route 10) because it has a ramp for the handicapped.

It would not happen this year. The earliest would be next June. We have 3 elections coming up. The 13th of August, the 15th of October and the 5th of November. Staffing will be hard as it is.

- Bayer's Grand opening will be a fair for the town. They start moving in next month. They also made a \$20,000 donation for Hanover Township day.

- The concerts in July will be happening again.
- Flag Day is June 17th and the Fireworks will be July 2nd with a rain date of July 3rd.
- Shop Rite is moving along and may be done by late fall or Thanksgiving.
- Wegmans and Loews have filed.
- Post Office in Whippany – there have been many complaints about having to go to Morristown. The town has written to the congressmen, but it doesn't look like anything's moving.

George mentioned listening to calls on the plectron and thanked the departments for all their hard work. Sometimes he can't believe how many calls come in, one after another and he appreciates the work the guys do.

There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

BILLS

Comm. Cobane moved that the following bills be paid. The move was seconded by Comm. J. Mihalko and was carried by the following vote:

AYES: M. Mihalko, Barz, J. Mihalko, Cobane & Hansch

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

05/03/2013	eft	NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits	Medical Benefits	-7,713.71
05/03/2013	6024	Firefighter One, LLC	Training and Education	-850.00
05/03/2013	6025	Home Depot Credit Services	Operating Materials & Supplies	-118.38
05/03/2013	6026	Microsoft Corp / Technet	Membership Dues & Subscriptions	-249.00
05/03/2013	6027	Lifesavers, Inc.	Medical Supplies	-406.00
05/03/2013	6028	Whippany Fire Company	rentals / Training	-5,300.00
05/07/2013	6029	First Priority Emergency Vehicles	Engine 82	-1,394.85
05/07/2013	6030	J C P & L	Utilities	-683.05
05/07/2013	6031	Fire Fighters Equipment Company Inc.	Operating Materials & Supplies	-125.00
05/07/2013	6032	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	Office Supplies	-377.57
05/07/2013	6033	Politi Auto Parts	Operating Materials & Supplies	-13.28
05/07/2013	6034	Nestle Pure Life Direct	Water	-8.99
05/10/2013	6035	J C P & L	Utilities	-55.51
05/10/2013	6036	CDW Government	Operating Materials & Supplies	-378.24
05/10/2013	6037	Batteries Plus	Batteries	-169.94
05/10/2013	6038	MC Allegiance of Fire Chiefs	Membership Dues & Subscriptions	-25.00
05/10/2013	6039	Whippany Diner	Operating Materials & Supplies	-67.50
05/10/2013	6040	Chief Supply Corp.	Uniforms and Personal Equipment	-90.77
05/13/2013	6041	Chief Supply Corp.	Uniforms and Personal Equipment	-92.89
05/13/2013	6042	J C P & L	Utilities	-3.25
05/13/2013	6043	PSE&G	Utilities	-432.12
05/13/2013	6044	Morris County Public Safety Training Acad	Training and Education	-250.00
05/13/2013	6045	Police & Firemen's Insurance Association	Police & Fire Insurance	-452.72
05/13/2013	6046	McNeil & Company	Insurance Premiums	-5,424.75
05/15/2013	eft	Board of Fire Commissioners	Payroll	14,143.38
05/20/2013	6047	Fire Fighters Equipment Company Inc.	Operating Materials & Supplies	-107.00
05/20/2013	6048	Enforsys	Computers	-3,400.00
05/20/2013	6049	Township of Hanover	Gasoline	-501.90
05/24/2013	6050	Continental Fire & Safety	Operating Materials & Supplies	-105.00
05/24/2013	6051	Standard Insurance Co	Life Insurance	-1,751.60

05/24/2013	6052	Township of Hanover	Diesel	-260.55
05/28/2013	6053	Concern	Medical	-450.00
05/28/2013	6054	Cablevision	Utilities	-242.82
05/28/2013	6055	Verizon Wireless	Utilities	-1,000.32
05/31/2013	eft	Board of Fire Commissioners	Payroll	13,904.25
06/03/2013	6056	Whippany Fire Company	rentals	-5,000.00
06/03/2013	6057	Politi Auto Parts	Operating Materials & Supplies	-16.54
06/03/2013	6058	Verizon Wireless	Utilities	-114.03
06/03/2013	6059	Batteries Plus	Batteries	-36.72
06/03/2013	6060	BP	Fuel Vouchers	-732.00
06/03/2013	6061	Coffee Lovers	Coffee	-248.13
06/07/2013	eft	NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits	Medical Benefits	-7,713.71
06/07/2013	6062	J C P & L	Utilities	-813.20
06/07/2013	6063	Township of Hanover	Diesel	-302.57
06/07/2013	6064	Nestle Pure Life Direct	Water	-8.99
06/10/2013	6065	Township of Hanover	Gasoline	-404.37
06/10/2013	6066	Fire Fighters Equipment Company Inc.	Packs	-1,817.50
06/10/2013	6067	J C P & L	Utilities	-3.25
06/10/2013	6068	Liberty Mutual Insurance Group	Workers Compensation	<u>-4,520.03</u>
				<hr/>
				-
				82,280.38

At this time, Comm. J. Mihalko made a motion to adjourn.
The motion was seconded by Comm. Barz and passed by the following vote;
AYES: M. Mihalko, Barz, J. Mihalko, Cobane & Hansch
ABSENT: None
NAYS: None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14.

Respectfully submitted: Janet Gant Hammond, Board Assistant