

**MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING – (Transcribed from tape)**

**October 11, 2010**

Chairman Hansch called the meeting to order on the above mentioned date at 8:02 pm, at the Fire Commissioner's office at 434 Route 10, Whippany, NJ.

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

Absent: None

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 Hanover Eagle 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. J. 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

NAYS: None

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The following Treasurer's report was submitted. Comm. M. Mihalko moved that we move funds from Purchase of Assets to Employee Benefit and that we accept the Treasurer's Report. Comm. J. Mihalko seconded the move and it was carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

**General Checking Account #7859643244**

**TD Bank**

Balance On Hand - August 31, 2010	<b>\$282,221.44</b>
September Checks	(\$63,791.80)

**Deposits for the Month of September 2010**

GE Aviation	Permits & Fees	\$42.00
JCC Metrowest	Permits & Fees	\$42.00
State of NJ Law & Public Safety Office	Permits & Fees	\$84.00
Cadbury Adams	Permits & Fees	\$168.00
Abundant Life Worship center	Permits & Fees	\$84.00
Township of Hanover	False alarms - August	\$100.00
VFIS - Towing claim for #83	Other Income	\$976.00

**Balance on Hand, September 30, 2010** **\$219,925.64**

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## **TD Bank Money Market**

Balance on Hand September 30, 2010

**\$2,823.09**

## **Payroll Checking Account # 7859643251**

### **TD Bank**

Balance on Hand September 30, 2010

**\$746.30**

## **Active Assets Account #615 108684 107**

### **Morgan Stanley/Smith Barney**

Balance on Hand August 31, 2010

**\$778,496.84**

## **Checks Submitted this Month's Meeting**

**\$89,707.78**

## **CHIEF'S / FIRE OFFICIAL REPORT**

### Supplies, Equipment, and Maintenance

- Office supplies were purchased from Staples.
- Fire Fighters repaired one SCBA pack. They also converted over 5 packs to the integrated PASS alarms.

### Apparatus

- CF Services repaired an air leak on Engine 81.
- Tires were replaced on 201. Brunner's Garage changed the oil and also replaced the front brakes.
- Engine 81 hit the side of the garage door frame resulting in minimal damage.

### Training

- Training for the month of August was:
  - Ladders and Haz Mat.
- Training for the month of October will be Search and Rescue and at the Airport using the simulator. From Tuesday October 26<sup>th</sup> through Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> we have been given 5 additional training spots on each of those days to go to the airport between 8am and 12 noon. On Friday October 29<sup>th</sup> we will be participating in the tri annual exercise at the airport starting at 6 pm.
- We also had the opportunity to attend training classes at CAE Simuflight last week. The classes consisted of proper extrication and evacuation techniques in air craft. This training was set up by Chief Doug Reighard from the Morristown Airport.

### Purchases

- Yearly service for apparatus:

1.	CF Services	\$2,940.00
2.	First Priority Emergency Vehicles	\$4,475.00

### Fire Prevention

- Fifty seven (57) inspections /re-inspections were conducted last month and \$378.00 dollars in permits were collected.
- A copy of the first draft of the Fire Prevention Ordinance has been distributed to you for your review. A copy has also been forwarded to John Dorsey the Township Attorney for his review. Countless hours have been spent in collecting the square footages of the businesses in the

district. At this time it appears that we could possibly collect in fees between \$25,000.00 and \$30,000.00 dollars by using this ordinance.

#### Other Matters and Announcements

- 3 OPRA Request were completed.
- 1 Plan Review was completed.
- Glen Molchan joined as a new member at last month's company meeting.
- Fire Prevention month has started with multiple classes all ready completed and scheduled.
- Chief Craig Goss from Morris Township retired.

A motion was made to accept the Chief's /Fire Officials report and act on any approvals at the necessary time later in the meeting. This motion was made by Comm. Cobane and was seconded by Comm. J. Mihalko. It was carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A Letter to East Hanover thanking them for the use of their pumps while ours were down.
- The Mayor wrote him back thanking him for his letter.
- A letter to request renewal of online access to Motor Vehicle records to ensure our drivers are to date.
- A letter thanking Air Group for letting us use their facility for a training drill.
- A letter to WPHS requesting use of property to conduct a training drill there.
- A letter to Confined Space Services thanking them for assisting us with training over the year.
- Shell card for Chief.

The Mayor sent out a request to our Senator, & local politicians asking them if we could approach them for a loan for the Firehouse project – the Economic Development Committee. They provide loans at lower rates. The politicians said they would discuss it and we should send a follow-up with more information stating what we're up against. To be proactive with it.

Fred – Bob Newell spoke to the mayor this morning. When Bob talked to the people in their office, we have a 10% chance of being eligible for it and there are a lot of application fees – almost \$2000. So, it may not be worth pursuing for the money involved.

Mayor was going to an affair and will make mention of it and try to move things along. Whatever we want to do. Fred's opinion was that it's not worth the above fees and let's see what the mayor and Newell can do.

George – State has put a cap on us through next year. The state doesn't have it.

Fred – We weren't asking for money – just a lower rate, maybe.

It's all based on points. The lower income areas need it more and will qualify way before we do.

Fred - We'll have to see what our numbers from the bank come back as.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Personnel:** Nothing at this time

**Building:** Light is out again.

**Apparatus:** Got the check for the truck. Estimate came in for it - \$32,000.00. Came out of frame shop. They'll cut the nose apart next. That's the stage they're at. Before Thanksgiving, we should have it back. They're aware we want a full pump test on it.

**Insurance:** Liberty Mutual is all straightened out. The audits are both done –last year’s and this year’s. We got an overestimate last year. So we’ll get that back. Next year should be a little bit lower. We need to go over list and see who’s active. That saved us \$8000. Looked at Health Insurances. We can have a program almost the same but that would save us \$30 - 40,000 a year. Should have been looked at years ago. I would like to continue to look into this. The co-pay is \$5 more but if the Board approves it, we could reimburse them for the \$5. Agent is willing to sit down with us. Horizon was looked into but guys’ pediatrician accepts everything but Horizon. Would like to look at it more and see if we could implement this by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>.

\*\*A motion was made by Henry to keep looking into that same company. Motion was seconded by Ron Barz and passed by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

Chief – met with new insurance company VSIP. They did an audit, walked around and took measurements.

**Dinner:** Nothing

**Mementos:** Nothing

**First Aid:** We had 59 calls this month, up 131 from last year. Last week, we had 12 calls on Sunday and 7 or 8 the other day. We have lots of things in the fire. St Clare’s came in tonight to talk to us and lots of options. What’s the best way to service the town? Lot more to come on that. Another month or so, we’ll have some decisions made.

**Liaisons: Cedar Knolls** – EMS is the hot topic. Contract agreement is due. Budget is due. All in November. Lots of things to sort out. Good job on the 2 districts working together and to our paid guys. Paul has received several compliments on the speed of response time. Ian said it’s personally fulfilling to be able to help.

Henry asked what the guys thought about billing. Paul & Ian said they thought it would work. Ron said we’re looking into it. We’re basically covering all the state requirements. It’s a question of doing a little paperwork, getting our license and doing the billing. Cedar Knolls doesn’t seem to want to personally do the billing. They can pay a company 8% to bill and they take on all that responsibility. The Paid guys’ jobs don’t change. Paul said if we are still helping people and it supports itself and we’re also making a little bit, all the better. It’s a win win all the way down the road. Henry encouraging the paid guys’ opinions as we go forward because they are the most involved.

Ron – Billing is a winning situation for the taxpayers. Because we will accept whatever insurance pays. The State says we have to second bill, but we don’t have to go after the money. Whatever they pay, they pay and it will be well more than we get now.

George asked “Why are they so insistent?”

Ron – They feel it’s their ambulance and always has been. We’re stepping on toes so we’re stepping lightly. BUT, we’re pushing firmly. Because we can go in other directions if they don’t work with us and they know that. They’re still fighting it but I think the township committee should be behind our way of thinking also.

Paul – Instead of looking at 901 903 and its expansion as a new burden, if we bill, its 200 new customers. Changes the whole way you look at the situation.

Medicare pays \$361. So each trip from 903 to St Barnabas.....

Mike – With 1100 calls @ \$440 each, you’re talking about \$440,000.

Ron – The bottom line is we’re sitting here kicking around Cedar Knolls’ business and we can’t do that. They have to say yes or no. At these meetings, we’ve been saying to them “Listen, if you don’t want to

bill, just stand up and say so and we'll take it from there." And they still hem and haw. And say they need time. They've been talking about it for 5 years. It's going to happen.  
Paul – During the day it's career hours anyway. It won't really change the culture of their organization. They know we're here and we'll be responding in seconds.

George – Is that a feel for the whole Cedar Knolls Fire dept or just a select group? Because Gary Keyser spoke very highly of this program.

Ron – That's exactly right. Keyser's been pushing this idea for a long time and they just push him back in a corner because they're just not interested. Not that he's always right about everything, but he has some progressive ideas. They just step right on him. There's 5 of them, like we are but we're all on the same page and don't have to argue about it – we just do it.

Henry gave some background about meeting with them. They've gone over the numbers. When you break everything down, the cost is not \$75,000. How can we move forward from where we are?

If we went to billing, they wouldn't need our \$75,000 or any extra money from the town.

George asked who we spoke to tonight.

Our talk with St Clare's – they would make the money off billing – and not us. But we already have resources in place that could do the same thing they can.

Ron - Cedar Knolls could implement a billing system, even if it cost them 8-10 % up front while it gets up and running. To say they don't want to do that and give up what an outside agency like St Clare's or Atlantic would get to run our district, whether it's through their pride, stupidity, egos, whatever it is, then there's nothing we can do about it.

It's a win/win common sense thing.

Henry – There's a reason St Clare's was so willing to work with whatever conditions we wanted – they know they can make money doing this.

Mike – There is something we can do about it. We can work on just our side. Split and do our side of town – our way.

Ron – We need to keep the fire departments as one and the way to do that is to do the billing.

**Township: George Coppola** - Ordinance moving forward. Radio frequencies – We're not ready to go on county yet, but it will eventually happen.

Local agreement – one way or another should work its way out. I'll be glad to sit in on a meeting and hear what everyone has to say. We'd all like to get rid of the \$75,000. The governor has put limits on us too,

We have to make hard choices. Just met with police also. A few cops we didn't rehire.

George asked where his check is. He wrote a check for \$14 and would like to see it cashed by his next statement. Fred will check into it.

Cedar Knolls has a copy of the ordinance and they're giving it to Mr. Bucco. They don't think it will change much, but we would like to see it go through. George said - Nothing has moved forward on it yet. He will check on it tomorrow with John Ferramosca.

**Relocation:** See Fire Co. below.

## **FIRE COMPANY PART OF THE MEETING**

Thank you for use of trucks. We were shorthanded vehicle wise but the fund drive went well.

Some emails have been exchanged with architect and we're still on track with end of November to go out to bid. When the bids come back, we can move this along with the bank.

Architect holds our hand through the bid process.

Fred spoke to the architect at the convention. He said we don't have to accept any of the bids. We're allowed to reject all of them if they don't meet with our approval.

What are the terms of the bids? Fred thinks at least 60 days. When they come back, the architect reviews them, along with the attorney. They put up a performance box and all the paperwork has to be done right. This is a first for us. That's all part of it. Parsippany just did this too so they may be able to advise us if we need it.

Projected done date of Christmas next year.

Julie complimented Fred on the letter that went out in the fund drive.

Of 3000 that were mailed out, only 1 negative comment came back.

Fred had 2 people ask a lot of questions and we handed out the flyers we had used at town hall. We explained it and now they understand.

**Mike – About loan, TD Bank was one that we spoke to. We're trying to get a long term fixed loan – that's our goal. The bank said we could get a standard commercial loan, which they would fix for at least 10 years, but after that, the rate can be adjusted. It may go down, but probably not. He will check with other banks – may get something better with a smaller bank, where you go right upstairs and talk to the president. They will see the value in doing a local project. Preference is fixed long term even if we have to get 6 ½ instead of a 5 1/2 in order to get the fixed loan.**

**Fred – Sent email with agreement (Fire Comm & Company) for our review. We got the square footages as close as we could calculate. Our lawyer starting process now of picking apart agreement between Vision Equities and Fire Company.**

Question about water bill. Give Fred copy of that and last two and he will see what he can do about it. Shouldn't be a problem.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

New gasoline vouchers will go into effect Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. With Shell.

The guys haven't complained or anything. It should still be about the same.

Mike & Henry went to Commissioners meeting in Lake Hiawatha about caps & things. It was nice to see that other agencies have problems too. Met with 1 man from the state, who discussed the auditing level. He said 35% of the current 90 budgets don't even have a line item for elections and they're all being approved any way. One company has a line item for \$20 and one has one for \$20,000, so it showed the idea that the auditors are overwhelmed and they are the ones overseeing us. We should obviously do it the correct way.

## NEW BUSINESS

Check from the town for \$50 for September false alarms.  
Liberty Mutual sent credit check for last audit and another one on the way.

Ordinance - We want to make sure we have the ordinance ready to go. We should get around \$25,000 once it's in effect.

Paul – Of 450 total inspections / 240 were billable.

Chief – still figuring out the invoicing. Janet will do invoicing and keep track of this. When the guys do the inspection, if they haven't paid, they won't get their certificate.

Cobane – Will they notify businesses ahead of time?

Chief – Letter will go out in a couple of weeks notifying everyone.

Josh and Janet looking at invoicing – whether we use Quickbooks or Firehouse Software. Janet thinks we can use Quickbooks.

Discussed whether to send bill out annually or monthly. Pros and Cons for both.

Do we have an approval to move forward with this ordinance? A motion was made by Comm. Cobane that we move forward with implementing this ordinance. It was seconded by Comm. Barz and passed by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

A motion was made to approve the Chief's request to have the yearly service of the apparatus' done by CF Services for \$2940, which was the low bid. The motion was seconded by Comm. J. Mihalko and passed by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

## PUBLIC PART OF THE MEETING

Frank DeMaio appreciates the work being done by the Board.

George Coppola complimented the Board and Department on what they're trying to accomplish for the town and he wished more townspeople knew what goes on here.

There were many members of the public present.

## BILLS

Comm. M. Mihalko 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

NAYS: None

09/02/2010	4439	GRAINGER	Operating Materials & Supplies	-79.45
09/02/2010	4440	Verizon Wireless	Utilities	-354.75
09/02/2010	4441	Joseph Cortright	Operating Materials & Supplies	-94.22
09/02/2010	4442	Toshiba Business Solutions	Operating Materials & Supplies	0.00
09/02/2010	4443	CF Services	Engine 83	-377.55
09/08/2010	4444	PSE&G	Utilities	-465.00

09/08/2010	4445	Police & Firemen's Insurance Association	Employee Benefits-Other	-215.64
				-
09/08/2010	4446	Liberty Mutual Insurance Group	Workers Compensation	11,157.00
09/08/2010	4447	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	Office Supplies	-342.55
09/08/2010	4448	Educational Productions	Operating Materials & Supplies	-9.99
09/08/2010	4449	Finish Line Car Wash	Operating Materials & Supplies	-6.50
09/08/2010	4450	Rios' Engraving	Operating Materials & Supplies	-40.00
09/08/2010	4451	Tom Rebyak	Promotion	-102.83
09/08/2010	4452	Morristown Lumber	Operating Materials & Supplies	-105.99
09/08/2010	4453	New Jersey Division of Fire Safety	Membership Dues & Subscriptions	-240.00
09/13/2010	4454	Liberty Mutual Insurance Group	Workers Compensation	-3,740.00
09/13/2010	4455	J C P & L	Utilities	-1,269.79
09/13/2010	4456	Johnson, Murphy, Hubner, McKeon, et al	Professional Services	-98.00
09/13/2010	4457	First Priority Emergency Vehicles	Engine 82	-524.65
09/13/2010	4458	Township of Hanover	Operating Materials & Supplies	-48.00
				-
09/15/2010		Board of Fire Commissioners	Payroll	12,812.05
09/20/2010	4459	Randy Polo	Promotion	-137.01
09/20/2010	4460	Township of Hanover	Operating Materials & Supplies	-769.81
09/20/2010	4461	Gogel Tire Company	Car 201	-659.97
09/20/2010	4462	State Line Fire & Safety, Inc.	Operating Materials & Supplies	-862.75
09/20/2010	4463	Morristown Memorial	Professional Services	-1,188.00
09/20/2010	4464	Minerva Cleaners	Operating Materials & Supplies	-162.00
09/20/2010	4465	Oxford Health Plan	Medical Benefits	-7,850.34
09/20/2010	4466	Standard Insurance Co	Life Insurance	-1,525.10
09/20/2010	4467	Horizon Blue Cross & Blue Shield of NJ	Dental	-447.30
09/20/2010	4468	SMCMUA	Utilities	-389.52
09/20/2010	4469	SMCMUA	Utilities	-21.36
09/20/2010	4470	Rios' Engraving	Operating Materials & Supplies	-258.00
09/27/2010	4471	CONFINED SPACE SERVICES	Operating Materials & Supplies	-400.00
09/27/2010	4472	Alert-all Corporation	Operating Materials & Supplies	-1,361.84
09/27/2010	4473	Sprint	Utilities	-61.48
09/27/2010	4474	Exxon Fleet	Operating Materials & Supplies	-899.33
09/27/2010	4475	McNeil & Company	Insurance Premiums	-184.00
09/27/2010	4476	Cablevision	Utilities	-242.56
09/27/2010	4477	American Trade Mark	Operating Materials & Supplies	-53.39
09/27/2010	4478	New Jersey Labor Law Poster	Operating Materials & Supplies	-105.50
09/29/2010	4479	J C P & L	Utilities	-71.34
09/29/2010	4480	Rogut McCarthy, LLC	Professional Services	-720.00
09/29/2010	4481	PSE&G	Utilities	-10.52
				-
09/29/2010		Board of Fire Commissioners	Payroll	13,326.72
10/07/2010	4482	Verizon Wireless	Utilities	-1,483.95
10/07/2010	4483	Domb Lighting & Electrical Supply	Operating Materials & Supplies	-17.46
10/07/2010	4484	J C P & L	Utilities	-3.25
10/07/2010	4485	PSE&G	Utilities	-465.00
10/07/2010	4486	Politi Auto Parts	Operating Materials & Supplies	-54.11
10/07/2010	4487	Police & Firemen's Insurance Association	Employee Benefits-Other	-215.64
10/07/2010	4488	Florham Park Hardware	Operating Materials & Supplies	-17.45
10/07/2010	4489	Finish Line Car Wash	Operating Materials & Supplies	-42.00
10/07/2010	4490	Eagle Auto Body	Engine 83	-976.00
10/07/2010	4491	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	Office Supplies	-328.92



10/07/2010	4492	Whippany Fire Company	Rentals & Training	-5,800.00
10/07/2010	4493	Hanover Sewerage Authority	Utilities	-103.93
10/07/2010	4494	Brunners Garage	Car 201	-474.29
10/07/2010	4495	Township of Hanover	Operating Materials & Supplies	<u>-156.66</u>
				73,930.46

Comm. Julie Mihalko questioned the increase in the phone bill. Chief explained that the guys got an upgrade but paid for it themselves out of their overtime.

The public meeting was then closed by Chairman Hansch and a private financial discussion ensued.

A motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Cobane. It was seconded by Comm. J. Mihalko and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Gant-Hammond, Board Assistant