

MINUTES – REORGANIZATION MEETING

March 2, 2015

Chairman Hansch called the meeting to order on the above mentioned date at 7:30 pm, at the Fire Commissioner's office at 434 Route 10, Whippany, NJ.

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

Absent: Cobane

- 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 Daily Record and filed with the clerk of the Township of Hanover and the Clerk of this Board.

ELECTION RESULTS

The election results were as follows:

Elections were held on February 21st, 2015. Polls were open from 2-9 p.m.

There were 322 votes cast, including 43 absentee votes.

The two highest candidates were Randy Polo with 175 votes and Derrick Shearer with 160.

The budget of \$1,015,163.00 passed by a vote of 195 FOR and 97 AGAINST.

The Chairman stated that the events taking place at this meeting will take effect tomorrow at 12 pm, which is the first Tuesday in March after the Fire Elections.

At this time, Derrick Shearer and Randy Polo were sworn in to the Board of Fire Commissioners by the Chairman.

A motion was made by Comm. J. Mihalko to declare all Commissioner seats vacated and to make Fire Chief Joseph Cortright temporary chairman. It was seconded by Comm. Hansch and passed by the following vote:

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

ABSENT: Cobane

NAYS: None

- At this time, nominations were made to fill the vacant seats.

Comm. J Mihalko nominated Comm. Barz for the position of Chairman. It was seconded by Comm. M. Mihalko.

Comm. M Mihako then nominated Comm. J. Mihalko for Vice-Chairman. This nomination was seconded by Comm. Hansch.

Comm. J. Mihalko nominated Comm. M. Mihalko for Treasurer. This nomination was seconded by Comm. Barz.

Comm. J. Mihalko nominated Comm.-Elect Shearer for Secretary. This nomination was seconded by Comm. Barz.

All the above nominations were voted on and passed unanimously by all Commissioners present.

Roll Call Vote:

M. Mihalko: AYE, Barz: AYE, J. Mihalko: AYE, Polo: AYE, Shearer: - AYE

At this time, the acting chairman relinquished the chair to the new permanent chairman, who took his new position and the meeting proceeded.

The New Board for the year 2015-2016 is:

Chairman: Ronald Barz
Vice Chairman: Julie Mihalko
Secretary: Derrick Shearer
Treasurer: Michael Mihalko
Commissioner: Randy Polo

New Committee Assignments were discussed and appointed.

The new Committee Assignments are as follows:

Personnel: Randy Polo
Apparatus: Derrick Shearer
Insurance: Mike Mihalko
First Aid: Ron Barz
Fire Company: Randy Polo
Township: Ron Barz
Relocation: Mike Mihalko & Randy Polo

PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was then open for public comment.

The Board would like to congratulate the 2 new Commissioners.

They also thanked the 2 members leaving office –Henry Hansch and Robert Cobane for their long hard years of service as Commissioners.

Comm. Mike Mihalko stated that the old board got a lot of things done and he looks forward to the new board doing the same. He stated that even when there were disagreements, everyone always left here as friends and he hopes that continues and that we move forward respectfully.

Comm. Barz also echoed that sentiment and said Good Job and Congratulations to All.

Resolutions will be made ready to adopt at the next meeting, which is Monday.

A short discussion of the LOSAP program and our insurance policies took place.

LOSAP was enacted in 2001, January 16th.

Questions about how and when you can ever access that money. Right now, it seems like you can only get access to it if you die.

Maybe someone from Lincoln Financial would be willing to come speak to us at one of our meetings and explain the whole program.

Derrick found out that it says you can access your money when you retire from the LOSAP program but it does not say HOW you do that.

Ron stated that you should be able to get to it and even spend it, if you have a finite number of years left.

There is a Reorganization meeting with the Fire prevention this month. It will start at 6:30, with Ron as the new presiding Chairman. It was suggested that it would be nice for the 2 new commissioners to attend to meet everyone and shake hands.

Chief Davidson is out as of April 1st and Chad is stepping in.

We need a copy of the last budget and audit to put on the website. - Will check with Vince.

Contracts are up December 31st.

Cedar Knolls is desperate for volunteers. They are appealing to the churches and took out an article in the paper. They have had some open houses also.

We should talk to them to see if they would accept our EMT's even if they stay WHIPPANY firemen.

Randy – It may be an insurance issue. If they're not a Cedar Knolls member, and they wreck the ambulance or trip and fall in their firehouse, would they be covered??

Mike – Said There's always a way to get these things done.

Chief – That's why we created an auxiliary membership for 55+ members.

Derrick pointed out Mike Rung as a great example of that working.

We should be able to come up with a membership definition that satisfies the insurance company.

And Cedar Knolls may have loosened their policies =of attending their drills and meetings.

FF Hansch – We should be looking at volunteerism also.

Derrick – We had a table at the Girl Scout Volunteer Fair. He has talked to people – some are young fathers – who say that Fire School is a lot of time to put in.

Mike – We have to reach the older guys whose kids may be in High school or at college and they're not coaching any more.

Chief – Had gotten approval to put fliers and volunteer information at Paulie G's. 4 out of 5 of them are gone. He will put more out.

There was 1 members of the public present.

Comm. J. Mihalko moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15. It was seconded by Comm. M. Mihalko and passed by the following vote:

M Mihalko: AYE, Barz: AYE, J Mihalko: AYE, Polo: AYE, Shearer: AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Gant-Hammond Board Assistant