

**MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING**

**April 13, 2015**

Chairman Barz 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: Commissioners M. Mihalko, Polo, Barz, J. Mihalko, & Shearer

Absent: None

Also Present: Township Liaison, George Coppola

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. A correction was pointed out, as well as a lack of clarification on one subject. Both will be changed. Comm. J. Mihalko made a motion to accept these minutes with the changes made. The move was seconded by Comm. M. Mihalko and it was carried by the following vote:

AYES: M. Mihalko, Polo, Barz, J. Mihalko, Shearer

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The following Treasurer's report was submitted. A motion was made by Comm. Polo that we accept the Treasurer's Report. Comm. J. Mihalko seconded the move and it was carried by the following vote:

AYES: M. Mihalko, Polo, Barz, J. Mihalko, Shearer

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

**General Checking Account #7859643244**

**TD Bank**

Balance On Hand - February 28, 2015

**\$26,989.80**

March Checks

**(\$79,442.52)**

**Deposits for the Month of March 2015**

Registration Fees		\$1,531.50
Township of Hanover	False Alarms	\$100.00
Township of Hanover	District Taxes	\$169,193.83
Hartz Mountain Industries	Permits & Fees	\$42.00
From Morgan Stanley		\$25,000.00

**Balance on Hand, March 31, 2015**

**\$143,414.61**

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**Active Assets Account #615 108684 107**

**Morgan Stanley/Smith Barney**

Balance on Hand March 31, 2015

**\$395,382.21**

**Provident Bank**

Balance on Hand March 31, 2015

**\$78,084.85**

Checks Submitted this Month's Meeting

**\$96,040.98**

**CHIEF'S / FIRE OFFICIAL REPORT and COMMENTS**

The following Chief's report was submitted for approval. No purchase requests at this time. A motion to accept this report was made by Comm. M. Mihalko and seconded by Comm. Polo. It was passed by the following vote:

AYES: M. Mihalko, Polo, Barz, J. Mihalko, Shearer

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

**Supplies, Equipment, and Maintenance**

- Supplies were purchased from Staples.
- Supplies were purchased from Home Depot.
- Supplies were purchased from Politi Auto Parts.

**Apparatus**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Priority repaired the foam system on Engine 83.
- The tires on both trailers were replaced and we purchased a spare rim for the big trailer and used the best old tire as a spare.
- Morris County Transmissions serviced the transmission and transfer case on Unit 84.

**Training**

- Training for the month of March was:
  - 17<sup>th</sup> SCBA Refresher
  - 24<sup>th</sup> Mutual Aid drill with Cedar Knolls
  - 31<sup>st</sup> Transportation vehicle awareness and safety
- Training for the month of April will be RIC Awareness and Refresher both nights will be classroom sessions held here at the station. In May we will go to the Fire Academy to do a practical drill. This class will be run through the Morris County Public Safety Academy.

**Purchases**

- No purchase requests.

**Fire Prevention**

- (58) Inspections / re-inspections were conducted last month. We collected \$42.00 in permit fees.

**EMS**

- (39) Calls were answered last month with 3 transports.

**Fire**

- (36) Calls were answered last month.

## **Other Matters and Announcements**

- At the request of the Morris County Fire Coordinator our Swift Water Rescue Team responded to Somerset County to assist in a body recovery in the Passaic River. We assisted in the recovery of the Long Hill resident that went missing last January. Our team once again received high praises for a job well done.
- Yearend percentages were completed and sent into the State. I have submitted to you a copy of the final 2014 percentages and have been posted in the firehouse. Michael Goldberg has become a Life Member fulfilling the 84 months required by the state to do so.
- I completed 4 plan reviews during the month of March.
- We are in the process of scheduling CPR training for the sports coaches in town.
- We will be doing a CPR class for the Hanover Sewerage Authority this Thursday and Friday.
- I met with East Hanover, Cedar Knolls and Florham Park Fire Departments to work together in bringing a program to both high schools. The program is called After the Fire it was developed by two survivors of the 2000 Seton Hall dormitory fire which tragically killed 3 people. We all feel that this would be a worthwhile program for all of the graduating seniors in both high schools. Both principals and the school superintendent would love to see this program be brought to the schools. There is one drawback the cost is \$750.00 per program and the schools have no more funding in their budgets for these types of programs for the year. I am asking for your support to help fund this program for the high schools. If we can use money out of our fire prevention budget or possibly fund it through the Hanover Township Fire Prevention Bureau. The most it will cost us is \$400.00 unless we can get a discount for having 2 programs, one in each high school. There will be a planning meeting this Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> between the schools and the fire departments. This will also be great Public Relation for the fire department and the schools. I have provided to you a brief synopsis of their story. You can read more about them if you go to their website. [www.alvaroandshawn.com](http://www.alvaroandshawn.com)
- There are no new members joining this month. Tyler Woytas joined the fire company last month going from a junior member to a probationary member.
- Stanley Smith passed away. The paperwork for his Life Insurance policy has been filed with Standard Insurance.
- I have provided to you a copy of the 2015-2016 Communications Contract with the County of Morris.
- I will be out of town this Thursday and Friday.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Contract from the County for renewal of County Dispatch radio services. Contract looks the same – may be a slight increase.

## **RADIO DISCUSSION:**

Ron Barz – Not everyone likes the County Dispatch. People who go to fires don't hear what's going on. The old system updated you all the way to the firehouse. A lot of people are staying home till the second blowout.

Derrick Shearer: Two possible solutions - One would be to buy radios for people who we think are the top responders. With a radio, you hear everything – with a pager, you don't. Other option is to get off it, which costs us more money.

Ron: We were discussing going back to what we had.

Mike Mihalko – We brought it up at the last joint meeting and Cedar Knolls liked County and seemed happy with it.

Ron: Of course – they all have radios. People who are responding don't hear it.

Chief – Each radio costs \$2000. And the \$200 per year radio fee. It's not practical. The Commissioners said we didn't have the money to rebuild the old system so we went with County.

Randy Polo – Old pagers – Can we keep them in car? Charge it once in a while. I keep mine in the back seat.

Chief – Depending on who's on the mike first, you may hear Randolph and not us.

Josh Makowski: You have to have a trunkable scanner. Ron's may not be one.

Mike: We should see if there's a solution. \$2000 per radio is NOT a good solution. Rebuilding the system and going back to the old way is not going to work and Cedar Knolls is not on board with it. Is there another solution??

Ian Bell: Yes – When the pager goes off – respond to the call.

George Coppola asked if Cedar Knolls is really happy with it.

Mike said they seem to be well satisfied. They have 15 or 18 radios – more than we do.

Derrick mentioned that some guys bought their own. They also have 4 crews who stay there.

Derrick suggested we get prices, at least. We'd know where we are and have a ballpark figure in mind. In case we ever have some money to start buying radios.

Ron: They'll go to the people who most respond. We're spending money on things to entice them in already. They're still not coming.

Derrick: Let's find out why. Henry Hansch had mentioned an anonymous survey – online and on paper.

Mike thought that was a good idea. Maybe get it to 50 people who could respond.

Ron: So, Derrick will make a questionnaire? Derrick said yes.

Randy stated that his company had used Survey Monkey with good results. Optimum number of questions should be 10-12.

Derrick – Maybe money is not the driving force. If it's not, we could put that money towards the radios.

Mike – Let's find out what WOULD entice them to come out.

Chief, Josh & Ian then talked about using their smart phones to listen to calls. Chief demonstrated how it stays open.

Ron said his battery doesn't last enough now. He stated he has to punch 3 buttons to let you know he's coming. Then I'd have to open another app too?

Ron asked what the price would be for 50 smart phones. Derrick said that it would probably be much cheaper than 50 radios.

We need to sign the contract now while we look into it more.

Ron said he will sign it but not vote for it because he doesn't like it.

Mike said we have to sign it now so we have a system but we can drop it later. We will look into other things. We would have to give them 3 months in order to back out of the deal. It is billed separately from Cedar Knolls but not sure if they would have to back out also.

At this time Comm. Shearer made a motion to sign the contract for this time period to renew our radio contract with the County. The motion was seconded by Comm. M. Mihalko and passed by the following vote:

AYES: M. Mihalko, Polo, J. Mihalko, Shearer

ABSENT: None

NAYS: Barz

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Personnel:** Tyler Woytas went from Junior to Probationary Firefighter.

**Apparatus:** Tires for both trailers were purchased. Randy said that 81's tires need replacing.

**Insurance:** Mike Mihalko reported: This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year with ESIP – which is our accident insurance. Do we want to continue that policy or look into something else? We went with the umbrella policy last time.

Chad's policy was 3 times more expensive but covered you 24/7. This one paid more but had more restrictions. It only covered you while on fire business – on a call or washing a truck in the garage, etc... It cost a third as much – less than \$10,000. At the time, we figured you were covered while doing Fire Dept business so we saved some money. But we should look into it. The rates may be up. We need to find out when it expires.

Ron stated that we could self-insure also.

VFIS: Was Tim covered? It covered accident, sickness and accidental death. Once Joe has a death certificate, there may be something coming. They accepted Tim as accidental death.

**First Aid:** It was reported that EMS responded to 39 calls this month and 3 transports.

**Township:** George Coppola made the following report:

- April 18<sup>th</sup> will be Little League Opening Day – this Saturday.
- Deer hunt scheduled for September with a limited amount of permits.
- July 1<sup>st</sup> at Veterans Field – Fireworks
- Final Shop-Rite decision will be made at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
- George met with the general contractor on the Met-Life site. They're going to save the one stone house and maybe the round house. That was a mill house. Landscaping may have damaged the little one, though. The contractors are great to work with.
- George has renderings of the Met Life Buildings and also how Whippany Road will look. He is trying to get them up on the website. As far as the bigger house, they are going to take out any usable parts before they demolish.
- Quick Check – no one is quite sure about that yet.
- Park Ave & Whippany Road – approved for 21 houses – not 25.

**FIRE COMPANY / RELOCATION:** Ron questioned if we're ever going to hear anything about what's going on. Derrick said they were digging today. Mike Cook said he saw them also. He reminded everyone that the Little League parade is this Saturday and he would be using the truck with the mural. He said the Touch A Truck program went well also.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Julie asked about Frank Minerowicz and John Zagursky – were they honorary members? Mr. Kasiski Senior was a commissioner and his name is not on the memorial board. Other Commissioners that were not members are on there, and she is looking into it for Mr. Kasiski's son.

Ron asked the Chief if there was any point in revamping the percentages program. He stated that there was no point in doing it because the same 5 people will show up.

Ron asked if we ever got prices on putting medical equipment on Engine 82 for running medical calls - Even a medical bag and backboard.

Someone asked why that was necessary when we have the other 2 medical vehicles.

Ron answered, so that a truck can respond to a medical call and then be ready in case there's a fire to go from one right to the other.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mike and the Chief are looking into Gov Deals and selling off some of our old equipment. What can we sell, and can we give the Chief authority to sell the obsolete equipment?

Ron – The radios are still over there and haven't moved.

Mike: Do we need a motion to let the stuff start being sold?

Ron – How about we make a motion that nothing goes till we approve it?

Randy – How about we generate a list? – types of equipment we have.

Mike – Gov deals gets a percentage. He and the Chief were told low teens. Derrick looked it up on their site and it says 7 ½% up to \$100,000 but not less than \$5.00 on their website.

The buyer usually pays 10% and the seller will usually pay the balance or we can offer to split it. It opens it up to a lot more people. It's online and a lot bigger pool. We can't just sell anything – its taxpayer money that bought it.

Comm. Barz made a motion that we establish an online account for the purposes of selling our old and not used equipment. The motion was seconded by Comm. Shearer and passed by the following vote:

AYES: M. Mihalko, Polo, Barz, J. Mihalko, Shearer

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

Mike said that a man from Gov Deals will walk us through and get us started.

At this time the Chief went over his report.

- The Water Rescue Team assisted in the recovery of a body that they had helped search for back in last January.
- Mike Goldberg has become a Life Member.

There is a new program out, given by two men who were badly burned in a fire at Seton Hall a few years back. (The details of this program are attached to these minutes). They have a video program and a question and answer session. They give their account of what happened. It would be great for seniors at the high school level to hear as they go off to college and start living in dorms. Mr. Manning at the High School thought it was a great program after he saw a preview. We don't do Fire Prevention for older kids and this would be great to do for them.

Can we help out with the cost? – The school budgets are tapped out. It is \$750 per program. We would need one for Hanover Park and one for Whippany Park. The other Fire Departments will kick in money also. Can we maybe use the Fire Prevention account as that is what this is?

Ron asked if we had to have the money right now and make a decision right now or at next meeting. Chief said that the High School is looking at the online calendar to try to book a date. Want to get it in before school ends. They may even give us a discount because they're doing it at 2 schools.

A motion was made by Comm. Barz to move forward with getting this program. It was seconded by Comm. Shearer and passed by the following vote:

AYES: M. Mihalko, Polo, Barz, J. Mihalko, Shearer

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

## **PUBLIC PART OF THE MEETING**

There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

### **BILLS**

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

AYES: M. Mihalko, Polo, Barz, J. Mihalko, Shearer

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

03/02/2015	7006	BP	Fuel Vouchers	-522.96
03/02/2015	7007	Politi Auto Parts	Operating Materials & Supplies	-57.82
03/02/2015	7008	Verizon Wireless	Utilities	-378.16
03/02/2015	7009	Daily Record	Advertising	-42.48
03/02/2015	7010	Hi-Viz Safety Wear, LLC	Uniforms and Personal Equipment	-59.90
03/02/2015	eft	NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits	Medical Benefits	-9,050.54
03/04/2015	eft	PERS	Pension Expense	-1,319.48
03/04/2015	eft	PFRS	Pension Expense	-4,622.88
03/04/2015	eft	Board of Fire Commissioners	Employee Payroll	-15,132.31
03/09/2015	7011	J C P & L	Utilities	-820.17
03/09/2015	7012	Lifesavers, Inc.	CPR Training Expense	-583.04
03/09/2015	7013	Parker Publications	Advertising	-88.82
03/09/2015	7014	Township of Hanover	Gasoline	-119.20
03/09/2015	7015	Police & Firemen's Insurance Association	Police & Fire Insurance	-454.28
03/09/2015	7016	Coffee Lovers	Coffee	-422.30
03/09/2015	7017	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	Office Supplies	-357.41
03/09/2015	7018	First Priority Emergency Vehicles	Special Services-80	-95.00
03/09/2015	7019	Nestle Pure Life Direct	Water	-9.99
03/09/2015	7020	First Priority Emergency Vehicles	Engine 83	-32.89
03/11/2015	7021	US Assure Insurance Services of Fla, Inc.	Insurance Premiums	-1,075.00
03/11/2015	7022	DC Express	Elections	-95.00
03/16/2015	eft	Board of Fire Commissioners	Employee Payroll Uniforms and Personal Equipment	-13,830.92
03/16/2015	7023	Turnout - Little Falls	Equipment	-870.92
03/16/2015	7024	SMCMUA	Utilities	-147.12
03/16/2015	7025	Township of Hanover	Diesel	-14.45
03/16/2015	7026	US Bank Equipment Finance	Copy Machine lease	-255.00
03/16/2015	7027	PSE&G	Utilities	-814.22
03/16/2015	7028	Fire Service Safety Testing	Ladder	-456.35
03/20/2015	7029	Batteries Plus	Batteries	-6.99
03/25/2015	7030	Township of Hanover	Gasoline	-174.22
03/25/2015	7031	First Priority Emergency Vehicles	Engine 83	-1,345.15
03/25/2015	7032	Batteries Plus	Batteries	-48.61
03/25/2015	7033	Apollo Battery & Tire	Other	-206.00
03/25/2015	7034	Election Graphics, Inc.	Elections	-375.00
03/25/2015	7035	Standard Insurance Co	Life Insurance	-1,721.40
03/30/2015	7036	Home Depot Credit Services	Operating Materials & Supplies	-157.13
03/30/2015	7037	Verizon Wireless	Utilities	-226.12
03/30/2015	7038	Cablevision	Utilities	-250.66

03/30/2015	7039	Morris County Transmissions	#84	-366.50
03/30/2015	7040	Whippany Fire Company	Other Rentals	-7,000.00
03/30/2015	7041	Hanover Sewerage Authority	Utilities	-133.15
03/30/2015	7042	Hanover Sewerage Authority	Utilities	-174.30
03/30/2015	eft	Board of Fire Commissioners	Employee Payroll	-15,528.68
04/01/2015	eft	NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits	Pension Expense	-8,980.00
04/01/2015	eft	NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits	Pension Expense	-62,847.00
04/01/2015	7043	Verizon Wireless	Utilities	-152.06
04/01/2015	7044	ACE Com	Operating Materials & Supplies	-116.00
04/01/2015	7045	Township of Hanover	Diesel	-143.41
04/01/2015	7046	Morristown Medical Group	Medical	-65.00
04/01/2015	7047	Apollo Battery & Tire	Other	-475.00
04/01/2015	eft	PERS	Pension Expense	-623.81
04/01/2015	eft	PFRS	Pension Expense	-2,311.32
04/01/2015	7048	Witmer Associates, Inc	Uniforms and Personal Equipment	-120.98
04/01/2015	7049	Politi Auto Parts	Operating Materials & Supplies	-18.80
04/03/2015	eft	NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits	Medical Benefits	-9,050.54
04/06/2015	7050	Nestle Pure Life Direct	Water	-9.99
04/06/2015	7051	BP	Fuel Vouchers	-495.00
04/06/2015	7052	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	Office Supplies	-118.18
04/06/2015	7053	Police & Firemen's Insurance Association	Police & Fire Insurance	-454.28
04/06/2015	7054	US Assure Insurance Services of Fla, Inc.	Insurance Premiums	-2,150.00
04/06/2015	7055	J C P & L Morris County Public Safety Training	Utilities	-1,221.62
04/10/2015	7056	Acad	Training and Education	-175.00
04/10/2015	7057	PSE&G	Utilities	-695.18
				-
				169,665.69

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57

Respectfully submitted:

*Janet Gant Hammond, Board Assistant*