

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

September 14, 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 Mike Mihalko, Barz, J. Mihalko, & Shearer

Absent: Polo

Also Present: Chief Cortright

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. J. Mihalko made a motion to accept these minutes. The move was seconded by Comm. Shearer and it was carried by the following vote:

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

ABSENT: Polo

NAYS: None

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

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

ABSENT: Polo

NAYS: None

General Checking Account #7859643244

TD Bank

Balance On Hand - July 31, 2015	\$176,417.10
August checks	(\$84,247.88)
Add in Voided Check # 6848	duplicate payment \$402.00

Deposits for the Month of July 2015

J&R Tobacco	Permits & Fees	\$42.00
Barclays Capital	Permits & Fees	\$497.00
PC Mall .Gov	Refund/Overpayment	\$399.84
Township of Hanover	False alarms	\$1,125.00
State of NJ	4th quarter rebate	\$14,726.73
Winston Preparatory	Permits & Fees	\$42.00
Winston Preparatory	Permits & Fees	\$42.00
Township of Hanover	District Taxes	\$169,193.83
Whippany Actuation	Permits & Fees	\$42.00

Balance on Hand, August 31, 2015

\$278,681.62

Active Assets Account #615 108684 107

Morgan Stanley/Smith Barney

Balance on Hand August 31, 2015

\$395,664.64

Provident Bank

Balance on Hand August 31, 2015

\$78,084.85

Checks Submitted this Month's Meeting

\$119,476.24

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. M. Mihalko. It was passed by the following vote:

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

ABSENT: Polo

NAYS: None

Supplies, Equipment, and Maintenance

- Supplies were purchased from Politi Auto Parts.
- Supplies were purchased from Home Depot.
- Office supplies were purchased from Staples.
- All hose that failed in our annual testing was retested and passed after repairs were made.
- Helmets and shields were purchased from The Firestore.com
- Fire Prevention material was purchased for the school kids.
- Water bottles were purchased, received and handed out at Hanover Township Day. We have enough left over for probably the next 2 years.
- Batteries were purchased from Batteries plus.
- Minerva Cleaners cleaned and repaired 3 sets of turnout gear.

Apparatus

- Brunner's Garage replaced the rear brakes on Car 202.
- 1st Priority has completed the repairs on Engine 83. While running the pump they found a leak on the transfer valve actuator leaking they are in the process of getting a rebuild kit for it.
- 1st Priority installed Air Eject Systems on the 3 engines. Supplies were purchased from Fastenal to run air lines to the engines.

Training

- Training for the month of August was a walk through at The Zimmer Corporation in Parsippany.
- Training for the month of September will be:
 - The 15th water rescue.
 - The 22nd extrication.

- The 29th possibly with Parsippany Dist. 1.

Purchases

- No purchase requests for the month.
- Members are in the process of getting measured for new gear.

Fire Prevention

- (76) Inspections / re-inspections were conducted last month. We collected \$707.00 in permit fees.

EMS

- (34) Calls were answered last month with 6 transports assists.

Fire

- (41) Calls were answered last month.

Other Matters and Announcements

- One Plan Review was completed.
- Rich Allocco has successfully completed and graduated from Firefighter 1. Matt Gallo and Joey Mihalko has successfully completed and graduated from Junior Firefighter. I attended the graduation ceremony with Rich on Saturday August 22nd.
- Kevin Herbert has resigned from the department. Kevin has been hired by the Maplewood FD as a Career Firefighter.
- At last week's Fire Company meeting we brought in 2 new members. Mark Juliano as a Probationary member. Mark was originally with Cedar Knolls for 2 years where he completed the Junior Firefighter Class. John Gethins Jr. as a junior member.
- We are working on ordering the EMS equipment for the engine.
- The Life Insurance check for John Zailo has been received and was delivered by myself and Commissioner Julie Mihalko.
- I am in the process of updating all members' insurance beneficiary information.
- We will be using a triple dispatch this weekend between Morris Plains, Cedar Knolls and ourselves to ensure proper coverage due to the Wildwood Convention.
- Morris Plains will be adding our Rescue to their run cards for all confirmed extrication calls and rollovers. They have extrication equipment but, would like us to be dispatched to assist knowing the equipment that we carry on our Rescue.
- On behalf of all members I would like to thank you for your support during the 2 weeks of maintenance drills leading up to Inspection Day. We averaged 20 members each night which is the most that we have had in a long time. The apparatus and equipment looked great along with the firehouse. The fire company won 1st Place for Marching and 1st Place for the Color Guard in the Boonton Parade. We had 25 members attend the parade.
- During the month of October we will be conducting CPR and First Aid Training to employees from the Marriott Hotel in Cedar Knolls.
- Chief Digiorgio has sent out forms for reimbursement to all departments who assisted with the tanker rollover on August 16th. I am in the process of filling these out and returning them to him.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A letter from us to the township asking for their 2008 Dodge Durango.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel: Two new members joining, Giuliani, & Bethinks. Kevin Herbert resigning.

Apparatus: Repairs have been made to Engine 83's pump. When they fixed the pump, they noticed a leaking valve. They ordered parts and are in the process of fixing the valve.

Insurance: We are reviewing insurance records. We would like to remind everyone to update their beneficiaries.

Ron asked if we ever got a price on the difference between the 2 policies we were looking at.

Mike answered that he had heard from Al Latanzio. We are looking at an Accident and Sickness policy similar to Chad's that would cover the guys 24/7. Latanzio said it would be somewhere between \$1,000 & \$3,000 per person. Chad's would be \$535 per person for the year. Latanzio's is substantially more expensive.

Chief – The Accident 7 Sickness Policy we have – we've only paid out on it once. Can we self-insure?

Mike: If a man got hurt doing a company function, insurance would pay for that. Self insuring could open a can of worms. At one time, we had this policy AND Chad's. Right now it is coast prohibitive to switch. \$8000 per year compared to \$30,000 or \$40,000.

Dinner & Mementos: Ron said that older members are upset at having lost the social aspect of our department. We had dances and picnics; with a whole group of people who all knew each other. I don't care if that firehouse gets built 6 months later. We hang on to our money and don't do anything with it. Maybe we do something at the Legion on a smaller scale.

Derrick – We may have missed the boat this summer. Maybe we could go somewhere together.

Henry Winters: How do you get the young people involved when they don't come out now?

Ron – We need to mix the older and the younger. I don't know the kids' names, even.

Mike: A picnic is a good idea.

Julie – How about a Ladies Auxiliary?

Ron – We don't need that. The Commissioner's dinner – it was stag and we invited people who help us out through the year. The least we can do is buy them a drink.

Mike – I agree with that. What do you have in mind?

Derrick: Maybe at the next Fire Company meeting, Announce that we'd like to revitalize the social aspect and get a group together to look into working together on it.

Fred Brunner – We have to let the Hanover Manor know what's going on. The dinner dance usually costs us about \$10,000.

Mike – What if we pay half of that and the company pays half?

Fred – The Manor let us bounce it to this year. But we're committed to having X amount of dollars in our coffers for the construction loan.

Derrick – To revitalize something, you don't do something we've already done. We need something new.

Chief – We got do hors d'oeuvres and drinks at the firehouse. We have the bays open and hire waiters.

Fred – We DO invite guests to our Christmas party. They don't always come.

Mike – Talk to the Manor – maybe a downscaled cocktail party or we do a Spring / Summer picnic. We could do a joint Commissioner / Company cocktail party.

Julie – We need 3 things. The Commissioners dinner thing for those who help us, the Christmas party for the members, and something for the wives.

Fred and the Chief – Spoke about Cedar Knolls having an all night cocktail party years ago – they had a carving station, appetizers, etc... They gave their awards out there.

Ron – That's another thing. The Commissioner's dinner is where the awards were always given out.

Derrick – If the goal is to get the younger guys out, we can't make it too fancy. At the mason's, we had a breakfast and everyone helped cooked and also cleaned up. Maybe a breakfast. We have a big kitchen here.

George Coppola shared what they do at the Knights of Columbus. They get a tent and a grill. He has tons of people that come out. They do it a couple times a year right at Monroe Hall. We keep the younger guys busy so they stay. Then we can turn over what we've been doing to them and it continues.

He also said they put names on disks for \$2.00 a disk for a drawing. Half goes towards the food and the other half is a 50/50. Derrick said they do a game with a deck of cards too.

Chief – Why don't we start once a month after the Company meeting, like Derrick said, making food?

Derrick – Sometimes we just order pizzas anyway and guys stay later.

Julie – Like the hot dogs we did the night after that drill – that was nice. But you may only get a few people who come.

Chief – But after a while, when they hear that tonight is Taco Night at the Firehouse, or something, they may stay. It'll start picking up.

Ron – So. The Commissioners will buy the food and will the company buy the beer and soda?

Fred – We already do. No problem.

*At this time Ron made a motion that we serve food after the Company Meetings for a while and see how it goes. This will commence at the October 2nd meeting. The motion was seconded by Comm. J. Mihalko and passed by the following vote:

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

ABSENT: Polo

NAYS: None

The past 2 Commissioners were supposed to receive awards. Derrick got the prices on gold badges. They are \$525 each. We also have a Chief leaving. We've always gotten them before.

Comm. J.; Mihalko made a motion that we purchase the 3 badges. The move was seconded by Comm. Barz and passed by the following vote:

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

ABSENT: Polo

NAYS: None

We have some water bottles left over from Hanover Township Day. People who looked old enough got membership information attached by rubber band to the water bottles.

First Aid: It was reported that EMS responded to 34 calls this month and 6 transports. For the year, it's 285 calls and 30 transports.

Ron – See if Cedar Knolls wants to reimburse us for 30 transports. How much did that cost us?

Cedar Knolls: Nothing at this time

Township: George Coppola reported that a new police officer was hired and sworn in – Mike Burns. Turns out Derrick knows him.

- High School parking – Because of the field renovation, the parking lot is smaller and space is scarce. Students will be allowed to park on Fairchild on one side of the street only all the way down past Independence.
- Matt Gallo – George recommended him to our Congressman for admission into the Naval Academy.
Shop-Rite is trying to stop Wegman's from being built.
Met Life should be complete by March 2016.
No liquor license for Shop Rite.
Sidewalk from Memorial school done – just need the railing over the bridge to be completed.
They may look to extend it all the way to Quick check in next year's budget.

FIRE COMPANY / RELOCATION:

Fred reported that there was an erection of steel today. You can see the crane on the site. It is progressing. The block is going up on schedule. The third party is coming and checking that the work is being done. Bills are coming in. They should be on schedule to be done by mid December with the closed in part.

OLD BUSINESS

Ron – brought up a discussion of requiring prepayment for training courses outside the norm.

Mike thought that EMS should be included in those normal courses so we don't discourage anyone from becoming an EMT. He said even if it's only 1 guy that is dissuaded – we need EMTs.

Ron – Unless they're available during the day, they won't have time to even take the classes or finish their training.

Mike – I know it's a big commitment.

Derrick – The cost shouldn't dissuade people. It's the time commitment. I took courses I wanted to take on my own dime. We don't want people to think we're nickel and diming them by making them pay up front.

But the money aspect shouldn't deter those who really want to take it. If someone really WANTS to take the course, they will.

But we just agreed to spend \$2000 on 3 gold badges, so it's really NOT the money issue for us.

Paul Perrello – I think it IS a deterrent and it makes a difference. Make them sign the agreement. It's already in place.

Henry Winters: But then you have to chase them to get the money back. And if you chase them long enough, they'll just quit.

Paul – They can still leave anyway and use their training somewhere else.

*A Motion was made outlining the future requirements to take a Training Course through the Fire Commissioners as follows: That we require anyone wishing to take a training course meet the posted requirements in order to be eligible to take the course and that they sign the agreement agreeing to reimburse the Commissioners for any course not passed or completed. Furthermore, providing a member meets the requirements, the Fire Commissioners will pay the fees for standard courses needed to further your fire education. Examples of these being: Firefighter One, Firefighter Two, Officer's training, ICS, Vehicle Rescue, RIC, and the like. Prepayment will be required for those courses above and beyond the standard courses. Examples being: Fire Inspector, Arson Investigator, EMS, Ropes One, etc... This motion becomes effective for any future course excluding anything members are now already enrolled in.

The motion was made by Comm. Barz and seconded by Comm. J. Mihalko and passed by the following vote;

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

ABSENT: Polo

NAYS: None

NEW BUSINESS

Derrick interested in visiting the County Dispatch. The Chief emailed them and is waiting for a response.

Dale Cowley applied for an employee grant donation from PSE&G. He has been chosen to get an award for the Fire Company. The award will be either \$1000, \$3000 or \$10,000. It's in October and the Chief will be attending.

Henry Winters stated that the Utility companies are waiving a lot of their fees for the Firehouse Construction. The Chief wrote letters and most of them have been approved. The one connection would have been \$30,000 and it was waived.

PUBLIC PART OF THE MEETING

There were 6 members of the public in attendance.

Robert Cobane mentioned that last month we paid for a guy who doesn't even live in town or have a percentage to take a training course.

Commissioners stated that they're well aware of that.

BILLS

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

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

ABSENT: Polo

NAYS: None

08/01/2015	7160	Politi Auto Parts	Operating Materials & Supplies	-16.52
08/04/2015	eft	NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits	Medical Benefits	-9,050.54
08/10/2015	7161	J C P & L	Utilities	-1,830.95
08/10/2015	7162	Police & Firemen's Insurance Association	Police & Fire Insurance	-454.28
08/10/2015	7163	Verizon Wireless	Utilities	-1,043.88
08/10/2015	7164	SMCMUA	Utilities	-138.42
08/10/2015	7165	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN Morris County Public Safety Training	Office Supplies	-225.15
08/10/2015	7166	Acad	Training and Education	-225.00
08/10/2015	7167	Witmer Associates, Inc	Operating Materials & Supplies Membership Dues & Subscriptions	-270.30 -35.00
08/10/2015	7168	Fire Apparatus		
08/10/2015	7169	County of Morris Treasurer	Operating Materials & Supplies	-20,587.00
08/10/2015	5411	Election Graphics, Inc.	Elections	-375.00
08/10/2015	7170	Liberty Mutual Insurance Group	Workers Compensation	-3,718.03
08/10/2015	7171	Township of Hanover	gasoline / Diesel	-403.48
08/13/2015	7172	Morristown Lumber	Operating Materials & Supplies	-21.96
08/14/2015	eft	Board of Fire Commissioners	employee payroll	-13,921.75
08/17/2015	7173	Brunners Garage	repairs & Maintenance	-449.70
08/17/2015	7174	CF Services	repairs & Maintenance	-2,927.13
08/17/2015	7175	Alert-all Corporation	Promotion	-1,335.00
08/19/2015	7176	Fail Safe Testing	Hose	-2,247.00
08/19/2015	7177	Witmer Associates, Inc	Helmets	-2,027.72
08/19/2015	7178	POSTMASTER	Office Supplies	-98.00
08/24/2015	7179	Morristown Medical Group	Medical	-400.00
08/24/2015	7180	Standard Insurance Co	Life Insurance	-1,691.20
08/24/2015	7181	Witmer Associates, Inc	Helmets	-12.28
08/26/2015	7185	Optimum	Utilities	-250.65
08/26/2015	7186	US Bank Equipment Finance	Copy Machine lease	-255.00
08/26/2015	7187	Verizon Wireless	Utilities	-227.48
08/31/2015	7188	BP	Fuel Vouchers	-618.08
08/31/2015	7189	Verizon Wireless	Utilities	-152.04
08/31/2015	7190	Home Depot Credit Services	Operating Materials & Supplies	-211.48
08/31/2015	7191	Lifesavers, Inc.	CPR Training Expense	-5.00
08/31/2015	7192	First Priority Emergency Vehicles	repairs & Maintenance	-2,652.00

08/31/2015	7193	Minerva Cleaners	Gear Cleaning	-234.25
08/31/2015	7194	Tasc Fire Apparatus, Inc.	Hoses	-1,286.70
08/31/2015	7195	Morristown Medical Group	Medical	-400.00
08/31/2015	eft	Board of Fire Commissioners	employee payroll	-14,449.91
09/02/2015	7199	Politi Auto Parts	Operating Materials & Supplies	-31.40
09/03/2015	eft	State of New Jersey - Division of Pension	Medical Benefits	-9,050.54
09/03/2015	7196	Whippany Fire Company	Other Rentals	-14,000.00
09/03/2015	7197	Township of Hanover	gasoline / Diesel	-323.47
09/03/2015	7198	Batteries Plus	Batteries	-49.82
09/08/2015	7200	Division of Fire Safety	Membership Dues & Subscriptions	-240.00
09/08/2015	7201	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	Office Supplies	-396.63
09/08/2015	7202	Coffee Lovers	Coffee	-200.35
09/08/2015	7203	Police & Firemen's Insurance Association	Police & Fire Insurance	-454.28
09/08/2015	7204	J C P & L	Utilities	-32.27
09/08/2015	7205	State of NJ / Dept of Labor	Medical Benefits	-7.50
09/08/2015	7206	Nestle Pure Life Direct	Water	-19.98
09/14/2015	7207	J C P & L	Utilities	-1,488.06
09/14/2015	7208	Minerva Cleaners	Gear Cleaning	-371.50
09/14/2015	7209	American Trade Mark	Operating Materials & Supplies	-303.80
09/14/2015	7210	Batteries Plus	Batteries	-12.99
09/14/2015	7211	Morristown Medical Group	Medical	-65.00
09/14/2015	7212	CF Services	Engine 82	-218.50
09/14/2015	7213	McNeil & Company	Insurance Premiums	<u>-7,962.27</u>
				-
				119,476.24

At 9:00 Comm. J. Mihalko made a motion to adjourn the public meeting to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Comm. Barz and passed by the following vote;

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

ABSENT: Polo

NAYS: None

At 9:29, the Personnel meeting was declared finished and Comm. J. Mihalko made a motion to adjourn the public meeting to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Comm. Shearer and passed by the following vote;

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

ABSENT: Polo

NAYS: None

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Gant Hammond, Board Assistant