

**MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING**

**May 8, 2023**

Chairman John Gethins called the meeting to order on the above-mentioned date at 7:30 pm, at 10 Troy Hills Road, Whippany, NJ

Commissioners present: Ehrich, Cobane, Quinn, Gethins, & Willans

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

\*At this time, Comm. Cobane made a motion to approve High School Junior Patrick Mulligan’s Eagle Scout project to construct a pitched roof prop for ventilation instruction and training. The motion was seconded by Comm. Willans and passed unanimously.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Comm Willans called for the acceptance of all the minutes from last month, with one date change. The Special meeting was the 3<sup>rd</sup>, not the 4<sup>th</sup>. Comm. Cobane seconded the move, and it was carried by the following vote:

AYES: Ehrich, Cobane, Gethins, Quinn, & Willans

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

**Treasurer's Report - May 8, 2023**

**For the month of April 2023**

**General Checking Account #: XXXXXX3244**

**TD Bank**

Balance On Hand - March 31, 2023	<b>\$712,991.00</b>
April Checks	(\$89,321.71)

**Deposits for the Month of April 2023**

Paulie G's	permits and fees	\$54.00
Railroad Plaza Dental	permit / penalty	\$625.00
Whippany Fire Company		\$835.94
Whippany Fire Company	March cell tower	\$12,537.58
Write off old checks		\$624.01
Abundant Life House of Worship	Stand By / Fire Watch	\$350.00
Abundant Life House of Worship	Penalties	\$250.00



## Fire Prevention

- 109 Inspections / re-inspections were conducted last month. \$ 2,395.00 in fees were billed and being collected. Total of \$24,773.00 for 2023 so far

## EMS

- (63) Calls were answered last month.

## Fire

- (49) Calls were answered last month.

112 Total calls answered

## Other Matters and Announcements

- New Hire Process
- Conducted Plan reviews
- Conducted Spec reviews
- Conducted Meeting Officers (new radio system main focus)
- DCA Minimum Mandatory Qualifications In process (ongoing)
- Ground Ladder were tested no issues
- Medical Director
- OK SOG on responding in POVs (see attached)
- Memorial Day
- Longevity Vet open House 6/4
- After the fire @ WPHS 6/7 @ 9am
- Duck race 6/10
- CAE Family Day 6/14

The Chief said that the ground ladders have been tested.

The County Radio System – EMS is all over to the new system and this Wednesday at 9 am, we go over also.

Rover will be down for maintenance so everyone should use their pagers.

Chief got pricing for re-numbering the apparatus. He did 83 as a trial – it was fairly inexpensive.

Will cost \$190 to do it in house.

81 has an embossed gold leaf on the door.

For 81 there are 2 options.

1. We do an embossed gold leaf again.
2. We do a printed gold leaf which saves us \$400.

You may not even know the difference between them and it saves us money.

Morris Signs – True gold leaf - \$3225.00 24 karat  
Printed gold - \$2885.00

Ron-EI Signs true gold \$3885.00  
Printed gold - \$3485

We do it ourselves - all the rest except for 81 - \$2275 or \$1875. About \$190 / truck, we can do it ourselves.

We can also put less stickers on – like do we need them on the back doors.  
He can get the grill done in black powder coated from a guy in town.

Comm Ehrich – do we HAVE to do this? Is there money in the budget for this?  
The Chief showed the email from the County asking us to do it.

Discussion about the reason for the 80 numbers took place.

There are a lot more vehicles now – garbage trucks, police vehicles, fire – it gets confusing for the dispatchers at the County. Changing the numbers would help streamline the process up there.

Ehrich – With our current budget constraints – is it mandatory? We have a lot of lawyer fees coming.

Chief – We can do all 3 other trucks for \$670. 81 is the only one putting us over the top because of the gold leaf. Just for the door stickers alone, it's \$950. I can put a white reflective sticker there for \$40.

Cobane – But what would that look like? We want them to look good.

Ehrich – Six months from now, is the price going to go up? Let's see where we are then.

Comm Gethins – Maybe do one a month?

Quinn – Let's put it on hold for tonight and then look at the one downstairs.

Matt Gallo (who works up at the County) gave his opinion and explained why it works better to have them re-numbered. By standardizing the numbering, it makes it easier for dispatch to distinguish. When multiple districts are coming in, it can be hard to identify them all and there's some confusion. It becomes a safety issue on the scene too. If we don't recognize that a vehicle has responded that person could be unaccounted for and no one would know.

Tabled for now.

Medical Director – Our EMT-certified guys cannot administer Epinephrine, Narcan and CPAP without a Medical Director. Dr. Latizio from Cedar Knolls has offered to be our Medical Director at a price of \$3000 / year. He will train all EMT staff members and any volunteers.

Gethins – Can we do a MOA to combine with Cedar Knolls for his use?

Cobane – technically, we're 2 different entities – covered by different insurance policies.

Ehrich – What did we do before we had one?

Without a Medical Director, we were just First responders and couldn't fully act when certain medication was needed. Dr. Latizio will write the prescriptions.

Ehrich- What's the status of having an ambulance here?

It's still in the works. Cedar Knolls is having issues with staffing. They don't want to pay overtime to have someone sitting here with a power truck.

Ttruck re-numbering is a want but this sounds like a need.

\*A motion was made by Comm. Ehrich to approve Dr. Latizio as our Medical Director and to create a line item called Professional Services and move \$3000 into it from Gas and Electric. It was seconded by Comm. Willans and passed unanimously.

The Chief went over the recommendations from our insurance company. He would like to see the Use of Personal Vehicles added to our SOGs. VFIS has a University page with training on that.

He also wanted to see posters in the bar area stating our refusal to serve anyone we think is under the influence.

Some of the issues – namely, Line 6 & 7 need more clarification as to whether they pertain to arriving at a scene or just to the firehouse and need to be more detailed. Comm Cobane would also like to send these recommendations to our labor attorney as he is reviewing all of the SOGs.

Question as to whether this is a labor issue.

If someone disobeys something in there, he can be written up for it, so it should definitely be clarified.

The Chief will ask for more clarification.

A motion was made to accept the Chief's report by Comm. Ehrich. It was seconded by Comm.

Cobane and passed by the following vote:

AYES: Ehrich, Cobane, Gethins, Quinn & Willans

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

**COMMUNICATIONS** – Nothing at this time.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Personnel:** The new hire is on board for starting June 1<sup>st</sup>. He's passed all his exams.

**Apparatus:** 81 pump maintenance. Ground ladders were tested. Hoses are in the process of being tested. Tried out a new company but didn't like them. Old company is coming back.

**Insurance:** Workers Comp renewal arrived.

**First Aid / Merger:** There was a joint meeting with Cedar Knolls. They are not in favor of a merger just yet but would like to operate using MOAs and test the waters. Resident Brian Mulligan had some good suggestions. Cedar Knolls recommended we use James Schulz as advisor during this time period. He is their advisor and if we used him too, it would help streamline both boards to eventually align.

He would work probably 20 to 25 hours a month and would want to be compensated.

Ehrich – That's not in our budget either.

The Labor contracts are both up at the end of this year. If we could align the contracts, shared services would be easier. Our guys could work there and they could work here.

Ehrich – Speaking of contracts, the Chief is still working without a signed contract. He's gone 2 years without it. None of his perks are in writing.

Gethins – We gave him the raises he wanted. Emails have gone back and forth. Comments were made but nothing ever came of it.

Ehrich – We can't get our own house in order.

A Committee of 2 Commissioners from each Board will be formed to look into the contracts. Comm Ehrich and Willans volunteered to be that Committee and then we can figure out our contract with legal.

**TOWNSHIP** – Nothing at this time.

**FIRE CO:** - President Graziano mentioned that the Church of Christ will be bringing lunch for everyone on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 am for a tour and as a thank you to the firefighters. Lots of food is coming so all are welcome.

## **OLD BUSINESS –**

The town wants the Chief to sign off on the property at Peyton but he won't. The issue is that they haven't put in standpipes. The Chief met with Town attorney Semerow and our attorney Braslow and now it's been a month. He said he wouldn't be surprised if the town passed it because they did it with another property, over his objections. They got their TCO.

Powerhouse Fitness – we have a court date of May 25<sup>th</sup>. They won't pay the fines and have bounced their checks.

Classes are coming out for the guys to get caught up to date on their required trainings.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the bay doors are getting fixed.

Voting machines – going to try to put them in the back so the guys responding don't have to dodge them.

CEVO information went out but no one has completed the course yet. It's taken on your own and costs \$38 or so. The Chief said members should just email Ben so he can keep track of the training budget.

## **NEW BUSINESS –**

Comm Cobane reported that our auditor Man Lee is requesting information about the cell tower lease so she can pull numbers from it to determine our rental income from the company. Rob is looking into getting that information for her from Crown Castle. It should be a one-page document that lists each carrier and the amounts.

Tom Braviak requested a copy of that document also – when he gets it.

A motion was made to allow all the events in the Chief's report to take place. This includes the rabies clinic & the Primary voting here. And apparatus for the Memorial Day parade, the Duck race, the Touch a Trucks, and all Community events the Chief mentioned in his report. The motion was seconded by Comm. Quinn and passed unanimously.

Comm. Quinn – Whose idea was it to post notices all over the firehouse doors? I thought this whole legal thing was to be handled in house and not in front of the public.

Willans – Our lawyer said to do that in those locations and that's what I did.

Gethins – Chief has obtained a quote for a sign out front for \$6500. It's not in our budget not, but maybe the Company would want to do it? Chief will email the packet to Jesse Graziano. Sign would be 8' by 3'.

We would like to see what one looks like. The Chief said they have a website but also would like to see one.

**PUBLIC PART OF THE MEETING** 10 members of the public attended. Mary Beth Cowley had a question about the legal fees. Is there a line item for the EXTRA legal expenses?

Willans – It's all considered legal expenses and part of that line item.

Ehrich – We should look at the budget in 6 months and in 9 months and move money around if we need to so we're not doing it all at the end.

Tom Braviak – The new lawyer that is not on retainer but charges hourly – is there a report on how many hours he’s spent? Is there a max amount you give him to complete this investigation? Is there an end to it? Just want the Board to have scrutiny on this. As a taxpayer, there should be accountability here with that.

Gethins – Braslow advised us to have a labor attorney on hand for the contracts too. The investigator was here today at 9:30. Not sure how many hours he was here

Braviak – So you have no idea what this guy is going to cost?

Board – No. The interviews may trigger someone else he needs to talk to.

Tom – Can you give him a maximum number of hours not to exceed X amount??

You have a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers. The Board should be responsible and not let this be open-ended.

Quinn – Schedule the guy to do 4 or 5 at a time. Is he scheduling so they make money or to be efficient with our money?

Chief – He comes from Marlton so I’m sure we are being charged from that time on. It’s down by Philly.

**BILLS**

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

AYES: Ehrich, Cobane, Gethins, Quinn & Willans

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Split</u>	<u>Amount</u>
04/03/2023	12722	Lane Biviano, Esq.	5006 Legal Expense (Braslow)	-2,196.00
04/03/2023	12723	Verizon Wireless 884	6013 Bldg - Cable /VOIP/Verizon	-152.04
04/03/2023	12724	Amazon Business	-SPLIT-	-773.40
04/03/2023	12725	Ciullo, Michael	4012 Fuel Vouchers	0.00
04/03/2023	12726	Cobane, Rob	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
04/03/2023	12727	Cobane, Sam	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
04/03/2023	12728	Cowley, Dale	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
04/03/2023	12729	Cusmano, Gaetano	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
04/03/2023	12730	Danus, James	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
04/03/2023	12731	Desien, Marc	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
04/03/2023	12732	Ryan Falkman	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
04/03/2023	12733	Gethins, John, JR	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
04/03/2023	12734	Graziano, Jesse	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
04/03/2023	12735	Hueg, Kamdin	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
04/03/2023	12736	Jubinski, Ken	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
04/03/2023	12737	Kelly, Eric	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
04/03/2023	12738	Koba, Jack	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
04/03/2023	12739	LaSota, Matthew	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
04/03/2023	12740	Makowski, Joseph	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
04/03/2023	12741	Mihalko, Joseph Jr.	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
04/03/2023	12742	Mihalko, Marianna	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
04/03/2023	12743	Santini, Anthony	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
04/03/2023	12744	Santini, Joseph	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00

04/03/2023	12745	Shearer, Derrick	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-75.00
04/03/2023	12746	Tursi, Frank	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
04/03/2023	12747	Van Seggern, Steven	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
04/03/2023	12748	Ziccarello, Ricky	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
04/03/2023	12749	Morris County Public Safety Training Acad	8201 Training - Classes	-100.00
04/04/2023	eft	NJ Division of Pension & Benefits-Pension	4007 Pension	-4,774.09
04/04/2023	eft	NJ Division of Pension & Benefits-Pension	4007 Pension	-901.43
04/07/2023	12750	JCP&L 10 Troy	6001 Building - Gas & Electric	-1,075.04
04/07/2023	12751	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	5013 Office Supplies	-241.73
04/07/2023	12752	Auto Zone	7017 Misc Maintenance Supplies	-547.25
04/07/2023	12753	ESO	8604 ERS /Power DMS/Mobile EYES	-246.40
04/07/2023	12754	Acrisure - holmes & McDowell	7001 Vehicle Insurance	-619.08
04/07/2023	12755	Ciullo, Michael	4012 Fuel Vouchers	0.00
04/10/2023	eft	NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits Health	4001 Medical/Dental Insurance	-13,038.50
04/10/2023	12756	Police & Firemen's Insurance Association	4006 Police & Fire Insurance	-588.26
04/10/2023	12757	SMCMUA 10 Troy	-SPLIT-	-506.14
04/10/2023	12758	JCP&L 10 Troy	6001 Building - Gas & Electric	-15.00
04/10/2023	12759	Eastern Janitorial	6008 Bldg - Cleaning Services	-605.00
04/10/2023	12760	Ciullo, Michael	4012 Fuel Vouchers	0.00
04/10/2023	12761	Ciullo, Michael 1	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
04/12/2023	12762	PSE&G 10 Troy	6001 Building - Gas & Electric	-813.00
04/12/2023	12763	Finish Line Car Wash	7003 Vehicle Maintenance - Cars	-24.00
04/14/2023	12764	Luis Albarran	8401 Physicals - New Members	-44.13
04/15/2023	eft	Board of Fire Commissioners	-SPLIT-	-21,120.47
04/20/2023	12765	GRAINGER	6014 Vehicle exhaust system rpr	-14.98
04/20/2023	12766	Gannet NJ	8206 Advertising	-49.82
04/20/2023	12767	Eric Krygoski	8401 Physicals - New Members	-44.13
04/21/2023	12768	Amazon Business	-SPLIT-	-371.37
04/21/2023	12769	TD Bank N. A.	6012 - Bldg/Grounds Maintenance	-371.37
04/24/2023	12770	NJ Fire Equipment Co.	7012 Equip Maint - SCBA	-1,257.00
04/24/2023	12771	Braslow, Richard M. Esq	5006 Legal Expense (Braslow)	-1,260.00
04/24/2023	12772	Township of Hanover	-SPLIT-	-500.80
04/25/2023	12773	Amtrust North America	4009 Workers Comp	-10,131.00
04/25/2023	12774	Standard Insurance Co	4003 Life Insurance	-1,718.40
04/25/2023	12775	US Bank Equipment Finance	5012 OfficeEqpt Rental (copier)	-263.03
04/25/2023	12776	CF Services	-SPLIT-	-1,503.00
04/25/2023	12777	Township of Hanover	-SPLIT-	-186.37
04/27/2023	eft	Board of Fire Commissioners	-SPLIT-	-22,504.48
04/30/2023	eft	Board of Fire Commissioners	-SPLIT-	-22,504.48
05/01/2023	eft	NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits Health	4001 Medical/Dental Insurance	-13,038.50
05/01/2023	eft	NJ Division of Pension & Benefits-Pension	4007 Pension	-4,000.00
05/01/2023	eft	NJ Division of Pension & Benefits-Pension	4007 Pension	-800.00
05/01/2023	12778	Amazon Business	-SPLIT-	-26.98
05/01/2023	12779	Home Depot Credit Services	6012 - Bldg/Grounds Maintenance	-336.54
05/01/2023	12780	Morris County Public Safety Training Acad	8201 Training - Classes	-1,100.00
05/01/2023	12781	Fire Service Safety Testing	Ladder - Test	-716.10
05/01/2023	12782	Verizon 838	6013 Bldg - Cable /VOIP/Verizon	-182.78
05/01/2023	12783	Nisovoccia, LLP	5005 Accounting (Audit)	-5,940.00
05/02/2023	eft	write off old checks	Bank Charges	-4,651.24



05/03/2023	12784	Chenong, Darren	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
05/03/2023	12785	Cobane, Rob	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
05/03/2023	12786	Cowley, Dale	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
05/03/2023	12787	Cusmano, Gaetano	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
05/03/2023	12788	Danus, James	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
05/03/2023	12789	Desien, Marc	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
05/03/2023	12790	Dodson, Jake	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
05/03/2023	12791	Ryan Falkman	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
05/03/2023	12792	Gallo, Matt	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
05/03/2023	12793	Gethins, John, JR	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
05/03/2023	12794	Graziano, Jesse	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
05/03/2023	12795	Hueg, Kamdin	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
05/03/2023	12796	Jubinski, Ken	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
05/03/2023	12797	Kelly, Eric	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
05/03/2023	12798	Kelly, Shane	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
05/03/2023	12799	Koba, Jack	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
05/03/2023	12800	LaSota, Matthew	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
05/03/2023	12801	Mihalko, Joseph Jr.	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
05/03/2023	12802	Mihalko, Marianna	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
05/03/2023	12803	Santini, Anthony	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
05/03/2023	12804	Santini, Joseph	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
05/03/2023	12805	Shearer, Derrick	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-75.00
05/03/2023	12806	Tursi, Frank	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
05/03/2023	12807	Van Seggern, Steven	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
05/03/2023	12808	Wodynski, William	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
05/03/2023	12809	Ziccarello, Ricky	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
05/08/2023	12810	Optimum 10 Troy	6013 Bldg - Cable /VOIP/Verizon	-408.23
05/08/2023	12811	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	5013 Office Supplies	-352.41
05/08/2023	12812	Police & Firemen's Insurance Association	4006 Police & Fire Insurance	-588.26
05/08/2023	12813	JCP&L 10 Troy	6001 Building - Gas & Electric	-1,181.84
05/08/2023	12814	Turnout Fire & Safety - Little Falls	8001 Uniforms - Class B	-3,737.85
05/08/2023	12815	Institute for Forensic Psychology	8401 Physicals - New Members 8604 ERS /Power DMS/Mobile EYES	-525.00
05/08/2023	12816	ESO		-246.40
05/08/2023	12817	Verizon Wireless 884	6013 Bldg - Cable /VOIP/Verizon	-152.04
05/08/2023	12818	Eastern Janitorial	6008 Bldg - Cleaning Services	-605.00
05/08/2023	12819	American Trade Mark	5013 Office Supplies	-142.25
				-
				<u>151,412.61</u>
				-
				<u><u>151,412.61</u></u>

Comm Cobane made a motion to adjourn. Comm. Willans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:42

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Hammond  
Assistant to the Board