

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

December 11, 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 Chairman Gethins swore in Ken Moller as our newest Career Staff member. Congratulations to Ken and welcome to the District.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Correction – Comm. Quinn WAS present at the November meeting and those will be corrected. Comm Willans called for the acceptance of all the minutes from last month Comm. Cobane seconded the move, and it was carried by the following vote:

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

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

TREASURER’S REPORT: The following Treasurer’s report was submitted.

For the month of November 2023

General Checking Account #: XXXXXX3244

TD Bank

Balance On Hand - October 31, 2023	\$1,380,844.75
November Checks	(\$92,763.40)
Adjusted payroll - 11-30-23	\$5,326.34

Deposits for the Month of November 2023

Tyler Technologies	Penalty	\$500.00
Bayer Pharmaceuticals	permits & fees	\$54.00
Double Tap Brewing	permits & fees	\$54.00
Double Tap Brewing	permits & fees	\$54.00
Whippany Fire Company	October cell tower	\$12,679.26
Township of Hanover	District Taxes	\$269,946.00
Mechanical Solutions	Permit fees	\$54.00
T Amaducci	permits & fees	\$54.00
Double Tap Brewing	Permits & fees	\$54.00
Bushes Landscaping	permits and fees	\$54.00

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Supplies, Equipment, and Maintenance

- Purchases made from Amazon and Home Depot

Apparatus

- Rescue 20 Out of Service Email send

Training

Drills were conducted November

- Hoseline Deployment Long stretches
- Search and rescue
- Year-end training review

Purchases

- Nothing at this time

Fire Prevention

- **97** Inspections / re-inspections were conducted last month. **\$ 3,889.00** in fees were billed and being collected. Total of **\$42,571.00** for 2023 so far

EMS

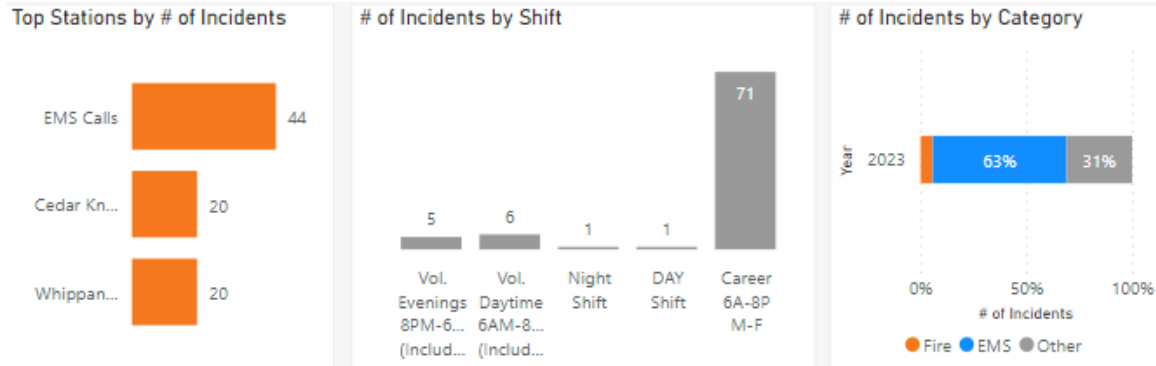
- (54) Calls were answered last month.

Fire

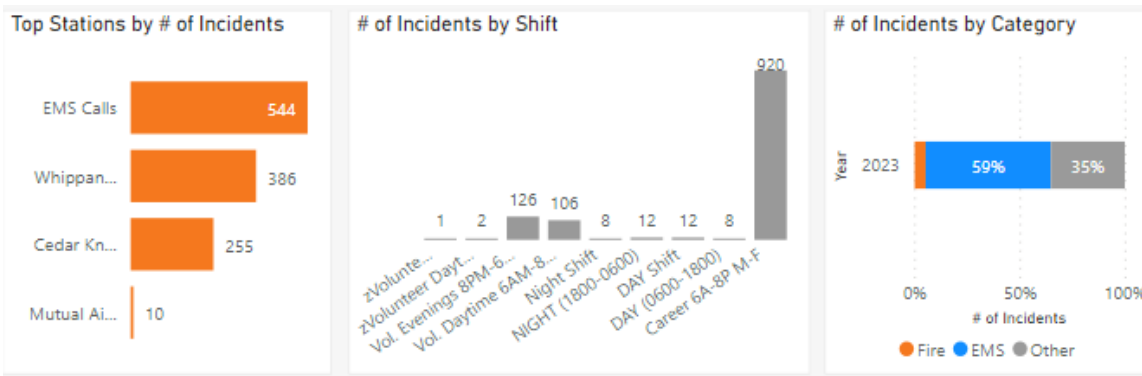
- (36) Calls were answered last month.

90 Total calls answered

NOV 2023



Year to Date



Other Matters and Announcements

- Conducted Plan reviews
- Conducted Spec reviews
- DCA Minimum Mandatory Qualifications In process (ongoing)
- Email sent to board and Labor attorney about driving complaint and SOG on POVs (on going)
- Zoom meeting with Pierce on our new ladder delivery time frame
- Sick time buy back Status?
- Additional meeting for Hanover Towne Center (Old Pine Plaza)

A motion was made to accept the Chief's report by Comm. Cobane. It was seconded by Comm. Willans and passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS –

- From Daily Record – Their new rates will be 39 cents per line for 2024
- A letter from PSE&G – New rate will be \$817 per month on Equal Payment Plan.
- Subpoena from CSP&T law firm regarding document pertaining to Aqueous Film Forming Foam.

Had been turned over to the attorney. No word back yet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel: Welcome Ken Moller.

Apparatus: Engine 20 – is back down again. Going back out for troubleshooting. Was towed again. Lost all gas pedal function on Route 287. May be shorts in wires in computer system.

Insurance: Nothing at this time.

TOWNSHIP – Nothing at this time.

FIRE CO: - Thank you to the Board for letting us use the trucks for the Christmas parade. Won 1st place in one parade. Would like to keep the lights on for 1 more week. As long as the Chief is OK with it. If he needs the truck, they will take the lights off early if needed. Board congratulated the Company on their win.

OLD BUSINESS –

Chief – SOG update from Lane. He's still working on it and will give us an update in January. Rob said he's been working with Derrick on it.
Chief – said he was working with Derrick on it also.
No update except email from Lane.

Update on new ladder truck. Chief was on a conference with Pierce after learning about Morristown's delivery of their truck being earlier than ours. He was able to get delivery of ours moved up 5 or 6 months to December of 2024. It was May of 2025.

Subpoena for AAA Foam - Braslow said he hasn't gotten anything from the Board. It will be sent to him. Comm Gethins said they will make sure it is sent and copy the Chief on it too.

Chief met with Hanover Town Center (old Pine Plaza). Looking to make a lot of moves quickly. 2 tenants in front. BJs and Chick-Filet with Residential also.

Sick time / buy back – any word on that? Will be discussed in closed session. Chief would like to be included in that.

Kensington Road call – Chief has documentation about that call, as well as audio. Will be heard in closed session.

Law suit with Powerhouse gym - Judge ruled for 1 lump sum – no payments. Should get it in the next month or so.

NEW BUSINESS –

At the joint meeting, it was mentioned that Whippany Park High School had a bunch of students taking CPR in the high school. Principal Kelly wanted to know if the fire dept would like to cover the cost of getting CPR cards to these students. It would come to about \$600. They take the class but have to buy the cards on their own. District 3 has said yes.

*Comm Cobane made a motion that the Board pay the other half of the cost of the CPR cards for the students. It was seconded by Comm. Quinn and passed unanimously.

We have a new probationary member – Cameron Getsinger. In closed session, we need to have a discussion about our Crew nights.

*Appointment of Chiefs – Chief recommended that FF Derrick Shearer continue on as Deputy Chief. A motion was made by Comm. Cobane to accept that recommendation. It was seconded by Comm. Willans and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC PART OF THE MEETING MANY members of the public attended.

Dr. Joanna Antoniou Bradley – Educator in the city of Passaic and has been to her share of Board meetings. Attended our last meeting and she was appalled at the lack of professionalism and felt that the Board was unaware of their role. The Board cowardly allowed their attorney to explain the RICE notice and accuse FF Bradley of misuse of public funds. After the excitement and screaming died down, it became apparent that it was simply a miscommunication and could have been resolved with a conversation with your employee.

Why has the Board grossly mismanaged this situation? Ben comes in early, is dedicated to his job and yet feels unappreciated and targeted at work.

For a Board to claim to be so concerned with mental health, you don't seem concerned about how your actions affect your own employees.

The Kensington Court call – the Board should never have let something like that happen in this beautiful town and that should have been the first priority – not the made-up misuse of public funds issue should have made the headline.

Also, Chief Perrello had asked for Protective gear and she watched the Board hem and haw about moving money around to make that possible. And then allow the attorney to go on a baseless rant on speakerphone on public record against her husband which cost more money.

You need to strike that statement from public record. You attempted to tarnish the reputation of FF Bradley and should also issue an apology to him. As elected members to a Board, you are held to a higher standard. At home tonight, think of your role as a Commissioner and whether you're truly the right fit to lead the fire department's mission. Hold yourself to a high standard. Start placing your time and efforts in ways to better this department and in service to the community instead of protecting your pride, and personal vendettas and other nonsense. Prioritize the safety of your workers before any more needs for legal counsel. Thank you for your time.

Rich Allocco – Unless you have something to hide, I was raised to look at a person when they are speaking. Hope you look at the next person talking.

Gethins – I did look at her and we listened to everything that was just said.

Michael Goldberg – read the following letter.

Some of you may know me, while others may not. My name is Michael Goldberg; I'm a life-member of the Whippany Fire Company. I've been a member since 2004; serving as a firefighter and ultimately leaving as Lieutenant. I left to pursue my life-long dream of being a career firefighter, ultimately getting hired in Montgomery County, MD where I've been employed for more than 10 years. For those of you that aren't familiar with Montgomery County, it directly borders Washington, DC and is the largest combination volunteer & career fire department in the United States. Montgomery County Fire & Rescue is also one of the top 15 largest fire departments in the US.

Rewind four years ago and I applied to Hanover Township Fire District #2 when they were hiring a firefighter. After diligently doing my research, I abruptly rescinded my application after finding it was the lowest paid fire department in Morris County. Not only the lowest paid, but the lowest pay-scale as well. Above all else, the political "volunteer-career" feud was something that just wasn't attractive to me. For those of you that are unaware, my children live here. Moving back to Whippany would have substantially changed my life for the better as I would have been able to be in my children's lives more. I would have been 3.5 hours closer to my kids. Working for this Fire Department, specifically this board, would have been detrimental to my mental health, and that was ultimately my deciding factor.

Coming from a combination department that works seamlessly together, this was egregiously concerning. While I didn't end up applying, Commissioner Willians called me to ask why I made the decision I did. We had a great conversation for 45 minutes where he told me he had no idea the issues I brought up were happening. I was hopeful that our 45-minute conversation would bring change to this organization; needless to say, it hasn't; in fact, it's only gotten worse.

Come to find out, I was also on the radar months later for the position of Fire Chief pending Chief Cortright's retirement. When the meeting minutes were OPRA requested, Commissioner Willians suggested looking into me for the position of

Fire Chief. I think that speaks to my character, education, and overall ability as a firefighter.

So why am I here? I'm passionate about this place. I'm passionate about committing to the mission; to protect lives, property, and the environment. So passionate, in fact, that I used 24 hours of vacation time to be here tonight among driving three and a half hours each way to voice my thoughts. To put my vacation earning into perspective, it takes me 2.5 months to accumulate 24 hours of vacation. So to me, this is important.

I'm here because a resident died two months ago due to a lack of service and staffing. For those of you that aren't familiar with a high-angle rescue, it's extremely dangerous. It's not a skill that is taught in basic firefighting essentials, it's a carefully executed maneuver; something we train for regularly as a part of my employment with Maryland Task Force 1, one of the nation's prestigious 28 federally funded FEMA task forces. This lack of response resulted in a Police Officer from Hanover Township, with absolutely no knowledge of technical rescue, putting his life on the line because this department failed and he couldn't watch in good faith while nothing was happening. When I called to express my concerns to Commissioner Willians, he was unaware of this incident. Is incompetence and failure to educate the responsibility of someone else? Doesn't the board have access to the fire reporting software that the department uses? Not only do they have access, they made a point to request such access.

My conversation with Commissioner Willians went further. Surprisingly, he asked what I suggest we do to make things better. To me, this isn't a division of career or volunteer issues. I don't care who answers the call when my mother's alarm is going off, or when a medical emergency has occurred to one of my children. I just want a response, and a timely response at that. Commissioner Willians told me the board didn't have the funding to put more guys on or change staffing levels. Well, with the current (and downright embarrassing) pay scale, hiring another firefighter isn't too far off from the money you all blew on a labor attorney with an open checkbook. Commissioner Willian's response? He never asked for that. You know what, neither did the taxpayers. Turns out to hire an attorney and spend \$35,000 on such, a resolution needed to be read and passed during a public meeting. Did that occur? It did not. That is a misuse and misappropriation of public funds. Not only is this a misuse of public funds. It is illegal; it is a third-degree offense punishable by up to 5 years in prison and a fine up to \$15,000 per the New Jersey Statutes Annotated Code 2C. It is also unethical. It's a slap in the face to the tax-payers that elected you. It's time for this board to be held accountable.

This illegally hired labor attorney has shifted focus from being hired to conduct an investigation, that you all refuse to release the results of, to a concentrated witch hunt upon your employees. Last month you claimed that you didn't know who was feeding information to the attorney. The invoice for legal services, which was OPRA requested shows otherwise. It only shows billable time from conversations with Chairman Gethins and Commissioner Cobane. So instead of taking responsibility, you all lied; once again, to the taxpayers.

Commissioner Willians told me that the Department's response time was under the state average. Are we okay with being content? Okay with being average? As a successful business owner, do I strive to be average? Absolutely not. It would be

detrimental to my business. It would only be a matter of time until my clients and employees become disgruntled and left to seek alternate options. Turns out, this agency has done the same. One of your employees left to seek alternate employment solely based on pay and politics alone. To go even further, not one single volunteer from our current membership even applied during the last vacancy. That should be eye-opening to each and every one of you.

How can we improve service? The mindset of being content and average doesn't sit well with me, nor do I think it would with the public or taxpayers. I have previously been used as a subject matter expert with my extensive knowledge of CPR so I'll put things into perspective for you. CPR survival rates drop 7-10% percent every single minute. Furthermore, early defibrillation increases the chances of survival by up to 59%. So to put Commissioner Willians' comment in the context of life-safety we'll just apologize to the community for the roughly

30-40% increased mortality rate because we don't have 24-hour staffing. 24 hour staffing would allow a first responder to arrive statistically 3 minutes prior to an ambulance. That being said, data provided to me by the Morris County Communications Center shows as of last week there have been 438 EMS calls between the hours of 8pm and 6am Monday through Friday as well as Saturdays and Sundays so far in Whippany alone this year. That's 438 of our residents that didn't receive care from our station as they normally would have during the day. This metric is important. 11 months of pertinent data shows the trajectory of this organization is on-track to miss 478 EMS runs this year.

Commissioner Willians said we do have night coverage. Crew nights. Of course! Why didn't I think of that? The same crew night that doesn't respond as a first responder on a well-equipped engine company to a medical call like they do during the day? The same crew night where no one has any EMS training? The same crew night with personnel as yourself sitting in front of me staffs the rig with full facial hair and can't effectively perform the duties that you signed up for only one night a week to do without breaking the rules? Or the same crew night that didn't provide any type of aid to 438 of our residents during their worst time.

Unfortunately, the conversation with Commissioner Willians ended abruptly when he hung up the phone on me. Is this the proper behavior of an official that the public elected? Absolutely not. To go even further, Commissioner Willians was talking about me "crying to him" later that evening to others at the Fire Company meeting in a public and open setting. "Crying". "Crying". If we can't talk to the board about our concerns without having them slander and mock us publicly, why are they here?

I challenge each of you sitting at this table before me, to ask yourself why you're here. If you're a member of the Fire Company as well, why do you choose to perform that role? I know I'll lose some friends from reading this; and that's okay. I didn't join this Fire Department to make friends, nor did I join to win trophies in Boonton by overpaying for a band to put my left foot in front of my right. I joined to make a difference in my community. Honestly, I know I did just that. I left the residents feeling with a sense of ease by eliminating their emergency, I enacted policies that this very department still uses to this day, and I was an ear to listen when two of you specifically sitting before me were having the worst day of your life. I was there, and I'm still here.

Without putting words in your mouth, I'm going to humbly say that this board has lost direction of the goal. What is the greater goal? Section 40A of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated states that a Commissioner's sole responsibility is to "represent the taxpayers of the Fire District. It is empowered by law to assure the fire protection of the district and to maintain its property and equipment in a high state of efficiency." The NJSA code doesn't differentiate between career or volunteer. Commissioners are enacted and elected to, again, "maintain a high state of efficiency". It's time you all started doing just that. Let's improve service to our community.

October was a busy month for the Whippany Fire Department, however this department failed the residents on 8 separate occasions. 8 times the apparatus failed to get out the door outside of career hours. What are we doing to make this better? Does this metric show the department in a high state of efficiency? I'm no statistician but I can assure you the answer is no. I can also assure you that the public didn't call 9-1-1 because they wanted to show their children a firetruck, they called because they were having an emergency; possibly one of the worst days of their lives. This board failed them.

At the end of the day, this is my home. These walls are responsible for where I am today, and I'm tremendously grateful for that. That being said, and not that you've noticed, you won't see me wear Whippany Fire apparel anywhere around this town. I'm embarrassed. If you all ran for your covenant position to make a difference, let's put bipartisan issues behind us and let's make this place better. If you're not, please do the right thing and recuse yourself from your position for the remainder of your term.

I appreciate you all taking the time out of your day to listen and I would welcome any friendly conversation regarding these issues now, or at any time in the future. A copy of this letter, along with supporting documentation will be given to the board's administrative assistant as I would like this on the record and included into the open public meeting minutes.

Merry Christmas

Nicole Perrello - Chief's wife. The qualities that separate a good leader from an outstanding leader. A good leader makes sure tasks are completed efficiently. An outstanding leader goes beyond that to create a positive impact on the work environment and the community. Paul embodies the essence of an outstanding leader. It was never a question of what his intentions were when he was being interviewed for the Chief's position. His work ethic & personal commitment to his job is unwavering – always looking for ways to improve. He has met his expectations as a Chief but also exceeded them. It is crucial that you recognize how leadership impacts beyond the workplace. All the decisions affect the employees and their families. These decisions affect me and my sons and my daughter. The stress and frustration of work challenges have led to strained relationships and increased tension at home, and difficulty balancing his professional and personal responsibilities. Communication about these challenges is crucial for mutual understanding and support. As a Board, you have the power to shape the environment that not only fosters professional growth but also respects the well-being of your volunteers, employees and their families. My entire time with Paul has been centered around this firehouse. This house has taken countless numbers of hours away from me and my children that I'm never going to get back. Moving forward, shame on all of you and this chaos that you have created. I didn't even know how far this went before I wrote this coming here. The pain and distress that you purposely continue to give to your employees echoes in their homes. Each act of cruelty leaves an inevitable mark not only on these individuals but on the relationships that bind these families together.

You should be creating a stable environment that contributes to everyone involved here. Perhaps you should evaluate the condition that you have created here and work on an environment of open communication, understanding and mutual support. Paul has always expressed open communication - To work through struggles and always look for improvement. Not everyone is always going to agree. That is why it's important to communicate. That is lacking in this department. Treating employees with respect fosters a positive work environment. Appreciation boosts morale and in turn, increases productivity and job satisfaction. You took an oath to sit up there – Do your jobs the correct way. Be outstanding leaders and stop bringing employees down. There are children involved and watching and learning from you. Lastly, every decision this Board makes – you should ask yourselves this one thing. Does this improve our service to the community and make a positive impact? THAT's your job.

Derrick Shearer - No speech prepared. I agree with a lot of what was said. The relations between the Board and the Career staff is not complimentary right now. I don't think it's entirely either one's fault - nor that neither one is blameless. To the audience, you've definitely heard some statements against the Board. But my seat – it's from both sides. What is right is that Communication is lacking and it's something that we can all work towards. I've said this to the Board and the Chief. I would love for the Board and the Chief to sit down and actually figure out what the expectations are from each other. That would go towards helping. When I was Chairman of the Board, I used to speak to Chief Cortright all the time about what was actually going on in the department and there were no surprises. I know there's something that's going to be discussed with the Board tonight and you guys are going to find about it for the first time. That's not efficient or conducive and little things like that are the ripple effect that we are seeing now. I would like to see where we could get to a more cohesive operation. Regarding legal fees, I know the Board has heard a lot about the legal fees they have spent. I, personally, believe less is always better. But I have no problem with the Board expending money on legal fees because for decades, we had no legal representation and God know what we've done throughout the years that we shouldn't have. I know of many things that shouldn't have been done and also things we should have done and didn't. Some are minor and certainly not purposely unethical things. But to the Board, I commend you for actually hiring an attorney. It's following the recommendations of your auditor to hire a labor attorney. As a resident, I don't have an issue with that.

Michael Goldberg – Not objecting to hiring an attorney – it just should have done the legal way -0 that was my point. There is a statute as to how to hire people and you failed to do that and that is illegal, unethical and immoral.

Tom Braviak - I have been outspoken about legal services. You should have set up a budget. The fees are just not under control. You hire a professional service person in any employment and they're given a budget. You want something done, you tell them how many hours they can spend on it so you know what you're paying. My contention is not that you're hiring an attorney but that you hired the wrong attorney. The culture of the Board is reflective of the consulting support that you get from your professionals. This guy, could not be more of the wrong person for the culture of this organization. When you ask him a question, his answer is who should we discipline? How should we take action? Those are not what you're asking him to help you with. You should be asking him – what are the legal bounds of the decisions we are making in the process that we have in front of us? Instead, he seems to be wanting to create division and controversy within this organization. What is the Board's fault is that they hired this guy. He's the cancer that you've got to cure. Right now.

You do need an attorney to consult with so you don't put things in a contract that are contrary to law, like we have in some cases. Contracts should be reviewed by your attorney so that they're compliant with the law. Because a non-legal compliance in a contract is what's leading to some of this controversy. There have been s that were not properly reviewed before it was signed.

It's the wrong guy. You need to get somebody who you trust and who can move this place forward in the direction and the culture you would like to create here.

Was also hoping for a public hearing on the budget tonight. Used to be it was introduced and then adopted at a public hearing.

Final adoption is next month.

Braviak – on budget – This budget failed the Bd of Fire Commissioners. It would be a perfect world if we had \$10 or 15 million to spend on career employees to staff around the clock. We don't have that. We have a 2 and a half million dollar budget here. It was not approved by the community last year. It was voted down. What does that mean? It means you were not able to do all the things you were going to do. You had to go to the township committee and you had to negotiate a reduction in your budget.

When I look at this budget, the statement at the end makes it sound very nice – a 2.9% increase and 2% in the tax levy. It sounds reasonable but when I look at it, it doesn't give me any idea of how this budget supports your strategy. As a Board, I don't know what your plan is – to reach out to the people in this room and ask them to vote for your budget.

What I do see here is a 15% increase in the budget for staffing. Now, that sounds like you're trying to do some things with your contract and that's great. I also see a 33% increase in legal expenses. Here are some of the items I don't see even a one dollar increase in or even a decrease in:

Training Classes, Training Supplies, Radios, Pagers, Equipment (non-bondable).

Also, LOSAP, Clothing Reimbursement, Fuel Vouchers.

All these things are lower or equal to the budget from this year. As opposed to the 2 biggest increases which I see in Career staff and Legal.

Comm Quinn – We had discussed why we were cutting Training and some of the others. We did discuss things.

Braviak – You may have your reasons for doing it, but as a taxpayer, I see 2 things that went up significantly. And a lot stayed the same or went down. My question is – you're going to ask the community to come out and pull the YES lever.

Comm. Ehrich – We do have a strategy.

Braviak – It would be good to articulate that strategy and the plan so that the community understands that it's not just about 2% or 79 cents / month but what does it mean to the community and how does it help the needs – some of which were highlighted here tonight. Saying – This is our vision on how we're going to move this place forward and make it better.

Comm. Ehrich – Paul and I put the budget together. The 25% increase in salaries was to do 24 / 7, right?

Chief – Yes. We didn't have numbers to go off of because we're in the middle of contract negotiations. So, that's figuring the worst-case scenario - If everybody gets what they're asking for, which is obviously not practical, but we had to put it in there because if it does happen, where are you going to get it from? After negotiations, that leftover money can be moved elsewhere in the budget.

Some other line items – LOSAP – It's always been that amount and we never hit that. Same thing with the Clothing Allowance. There's always excess in it. But there's some information coming down the pipe with that, as well.

Comm. Ehrich – The salary was put in there for 15% - what was the criteria for that Paul?

Chief – We were basing it on a pay scale that hasn't been upgraded since 2008. That's what we're looking at. And also, to go for 24 hour shift. To address some of the issues that we mentioned here tonight.

Braviak – Shouldn't people know about that?

Chief - Absolutely. But the Board hasn't agreed to any of that. And not knowing what direction the Board wants to go with that, we have to figure out the worst case scenario, in case they decide to go that way, we have the ability to do that.

Braviak - Need to tell the public – if you support this budget, we have the opportunity to make some of these things better.

Gethins – we were also working on a merger possibility too and one of the big things was merging the 2 different salaries. That was one of the things that would make it hard to do the merger. We were trying to increase salaries so that in the future, it would make merging easier .

Braviak – What I'm suggesting is to articulate a plan loudly to as many people as you can. Let's face it – our elections are pitiful. 300 voters and 150 turn out and we can't get a budget passed. Have to give people a reason to come down and vote.

Chief – If that's the direction the Board wants to go in, then that's the message we need to get out. That's up to them. I can't speak on their behalf.

Goldberg - (to the Board) You need to advocate for what you want and then support it.

Comm. Quinn – I'm not disagreeing with any of your criticisms but this is my first term on here so I'm learning everything as I go. There are only 2 firefighters on board. We are not cowardly – we came to serve. You can't criticize us and say we did wrong till we know the whole story. That call happened on a Saturday. If you're a volunteer and out to dinner with your girlfriend, are you going to go on the call or go out with the girlfriend?

Quinn – No one on this Board to do anything but help the public the best we can. If the public is here to just criticize and not guide us, it's not going to help anything.

Goldberg – You guys requested access to the reporting software a couple of months ago so you guys are more aware. Right on deaf ears. Where did that go? You can log on at 3 am. You all have tea parties.

Cobane – I use it throughout the month.

Goldberg – You have access. People in this town talk. It's a small town. Someone died – and that's on the incompetence of this Board. And you say you have no knowledge of this 2 months after?

Quinn – We'll listen to the call later. Did he have prior problems? How old was he? Is that the fault of the fire department?

Goldberg – It doesn't matter if he was 6 months old or 60 years old. It's unfair to him and his family that nobody showed up.

Richie – What was the response time from the time of dispatch to the first Whippany firefighter arriving on scene?

Chief – There was a little bit of a snafu.... 17 minutes.

Quinn - So and it was a medical call before it was a fire call, correct?

Richie – I'd get fired where I work – fired.

Gethins – We had also reached out to Atlantic Ambulance. They were going to come in here for \$26,000 – and put an ambulance in this firehouse 24 / 7.

Chief – They're not going to do that John. You're flat out lying because Jeff Paul called me.

Mike Goldberg would like the email trail from Atlantic. Glen Dietz.

Gethins – we didn't move forward with that and we're trying to come up with other options.

Mary McKay – Whippany and Cedar Knolls ambulance should be one whole thing. We shouldn't have two. Why does Cedar Knolls have 2 ambulances and we have none? Why don't they just give us one?

Richie? – When I was a member here, each Board paid \$10,000 – District 2 and District 3 to hire a professional and he suggested that the Boards merge. And both these boards failed to take that recommendation.

Gethins – We have signed a resolution to start up[the merger meetings again. We have come farther than ever before in our meetings. One of the biggest things is the salaries. We are trying to bring that up so it's easier to merge.

Mary McKay – If everyone was under one umbrella, wouldn't it be seamless – everyone getting paid the same?

Gethins – we're trying.

Quinn – When you go to the meetings, certain people are hesitant to do it. It's not from this side of town. This has been going on for years.

Mary – How can the public make it happen?

Nancy Leone - What is the reaction time for the last call?

Ben Bradley – We were dispatched at 8:00 – Arrived within 7 minutes.

Nancy – So if nobody was here, what would the time be – by the time people had to come here first? How many would show up?

Gethins – There's a lot of facts given here. How many paid firefighters in Livingston?

Goldberg – It's a different county.

Nicole Perrello – what does that have to do with response time?

Goldberg – I will tell you where I work, we have volunteer staffing at night and they sleep there and they get out the door in 45 seconds. This isn't a career / volunteer feud at all but response times need to change.

Ken Moller's Father - Congratulations to the new hire. 24 / 7 coverage would make these problems go away.

Chief – The problem is that the Board doesn't have to deal with these things. When something like this happens, I have to deal with it. (Paul plays audio from call). Voicemail.

Quinn - The 24 /7 scenario is part of contract negotiations that are being discussed now. Back to the lawyer, there was some nonsense. There were reports that told us that certain things were not to be discussed or we'd be criminally liable. I'm not sticking my neck and my pension out and disobeying him. Until you know the full facts, people should learn them before accusing us of not doing our job. The attorneys don't return calls.

Gethins – We hear everyone and will take it all under advisement.

BILLS

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

AYES: Gethins, Ehrich, Quinn, Cobane & Willans

ABSENT: None

NAYS: None

11/03/2023	13140	ESO	8604 ERS /Power DMS/Mobile EYES	-246.40
11/03/2023	13141	Amazon Business	5013 Office Supplies	-498.86
11/03/2023	13142	Verizon Wireless 884	6013 Bldg - Cable /VOIP/Verizon	-152.04
11/03/2023	13143	Ciullo, Michael 1	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
11/03/2023	13144	Cobane, Rob	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
11/03/2023	13145	Cowley, Dale	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
11/03/2023	13146	Dodson, Jake	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
11/03/2023	13147	Ryan Falkman	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
11/03/2023	13148	Gethins, John, JR	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
11/03/2023	13149	Hueg, Kamdin	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
11/03/2023	13150	Kelly, Eric	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
11/03/2023	13151	Koba, Jack	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
11/03/2023	13152	Eric Krygoski	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
11/03/2023	13153	LaSota, Mathew	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
11/03/2023	13154	Makowski, Joseph	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
11/03/2023	13155	Mihalko, Marianna	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
11/03/2023	13156	Monahan, Michael	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
11/03/2023	13157	Santini, Anthony	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
11/03/2023	13158	Santini, Joseph	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
11/03/2023	13159	Shearer, Derrick	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-75.00
11/03/2023	13160	Wodynski, William	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
11/03/2023	13161	Amtrust North America	4009 Workers Comp	-6,537.00
11/06/2023	EFT	NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits Health	4001 Medical/Dental Insurance	-11,928.79
11/10/2023	13162	Police & Firemen's Insurance Association	4006 Police & Fire Insurance	-588.26
11/10/2023	13163	Castle Fire Protection	6006 Bldg - Sprinkler / Castle	-800.00
11/10/2023	13164	Finish Line Car Wash	7003 Vehicle Maintenance - Cars	-24.00
11/10/2023	13165	JCP&L 10 Troy	6001 Building - Gas & Electric	-1,316.37
11/10/2023	13166	Optimum 10 Troy	6013 Bldg - Cable /VOIP/Verizon	-414.28
11/10/2023	13167	PSE&G 10 Troy	6001 Building - Gas & Electric	-813.00
11/10/2023	13168	Matthew Bender & Co.	Membership Dues & Subscriptions	-242.55
11/10/2023	13169	JCP&L Fieldstone	6001 Building - Gas & Electric	-15.00
11/10/2023	13170	IIA Fire Department Testing	8003 - Testing - Hose / Repair	-381.35

11/10/2023	13171	Getsinger, Cameron	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-45.73
11/10/2023	13172	Eastern Janitorial	6008 Bldg - Cleaning Services	-605.00
11/10/2023	13173	New Jersey Labor Law Poster	8603 Other Subscriptions	-192.00
11/10/2023	13174	Hanover Sewerage Authority 10 Troy Hills	6002 Building - Water/Sewerage	-411.28
11/13/2023	13175	Wegman's	8205 Promotions	-236.57
11/13/2023	13176	Continental Fire & Safety	9003 Fire Equipment (non bond)	-350.00
11/13/2023	13177	Stewart & Stevenson Power Products	6011 Bldg - Station Generator	0.00
11/13/2023	13178	Approved Fire Protection	7019 Extinguisher Maintenance	-129.63
11/15/2023	eft	Board of Fire Commissioners	-SPLIT-	-22,599.67
11/20/2023	13179	VE Ralph & Sons, Inc	7022 Medical Supplies	-161.38
11/20/2023	13180	NJ Fire Equipment Co.	7012 Equip Maint - SCBA	-153.65
11/20/2023	13181	Morris County Public Safety Training Acad	8201 Training - Classes	-850.00
11/21/2023	eft	NJ Division of Pension & Benefits-Pension	3007 Payroll Deductions	-4,000.00
11/21/2023	eft	NJ Division of Pension & Benefits-Pension	3007 Payroll Deductions	-800.00
11/28/2023	13182	US Bank Equipment Finance	5012 OfficeEqpt Rental (copier)	-263.03
11/28/2023	13183	Air Group	6012 - Bldg/Grounds Maintenance	-230.97
11/28/2023	13184	Morris County Public Safety Training Acad	8201 Training - Classes	-1,375.00
11/28/2023	13185	Township of Hanover	-SPLIT-	-803.87
11/28/2023	13186	Morristown Medical Group	8401 Physicals - New Members	-468.00
11/28/2023	13187	NFPA/National Fire Protection Asoc	8603 Other Subscriptions	-1,552.50
11/28/2023	13188	Gannet NJ	8206 Advertising	-40.07
11/28/2023	13189	Standard Insurance Co	4003 Life Insurance	-1,843.70
11/28/2023	13190	Less Stress Instructional Services	8201 Training - Classes	-1,600.00
11/30/2023	eft	Board of Fire Commissioners	-SPLIT-	-29,453.45
12/01/2023	13191	Braslow, Richard M. Esq	5006 Legal Expense	-1,470.00
12/01/2023	13192	Verizon 838	6013 Bldg - Cable /VOIP/Verizon	-263.19
12/01/2023	13193	Home Depot Credit Services	-SPLIT-	-299.52
12/01/2023	13194	Verizon Wireless 884	6013 Bldg - Cable /VOIP/Verizon	-152.04
12/01/2023	13195	Shearer, Derrick	3006 Dep /Assist Chief Stipend	-600.00
12/01/2023	13196	Gethins, John Sr	-SPLIT-	-2,600.00
12/01/2023	13197	Willans, Steve	-SPLIT-	-2,600.00
12/01/2023	13198	Ehrich, Robert A	-SPLIT-	-2,600.00
12/01/2023	13199	Quinn, Richard	3005 Commissioner Stipends	0.00
12/01/2023	13200	Cobane, Rob	3005 Commissioner Stipends	-2,000.00
12/04/2023	eft	NJ Division of Pension & Benefits-Pension	3007 Payroll Deductions	-800.00
12/04/2023	eft	NJ Division of Pension & Benefits-Pension	3007 Payroll Deductions	-4,000.00
12/04/2023	13201	Eagle Automotive	20 / 80	-359.00
12/04/2023	13202	Morris County Public Safety Training Acad	-SPLIT-	-600.00
12/04/2023	13203	Amazon Business	-SPLIT-	-148.87
12/04/2023	13204	NJ Fire Equipment Co.	9002 Rescue Equip-(non bond)	-660.00
12/04/2023	13205	Ciullo, Michael 1	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
12/04/2023	13206	Cowley, Dale	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
12/04/2023	13207	Desien, Marc	-SPLIT-	-40.00
12/04/2023	13208	Dodson, Jake	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
12/04/2023	13209	Ryan Falkman	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
12/04/2023	13210	Gethins, John, JR	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
12/04/2023	13211	Hueg, Kamdin	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
12/04/2023	13212	Koba, Jack	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-25.00
12/04/2023	13213	LaSota, Mathew	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00

12/04/2023	13214	Monahan, Michael	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
12/04/2023	13215	Santini, Anthony	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
12/04/2023	13216	Santini, Joseph	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
12/04/2023	13217	Shearer, Derrick	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-75.00
12/04/2023	13218	Ziccarello, Ricky	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-40.00
12/04/2023	13220	Chenong, Darren	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-647.00
12/04/2023	13221	Ciullo, Michael 1	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-670.00
12/04/2023	13222	Cobane, Rob	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-1,050.00
12/04/2023	13223	Cobane, Thomas	Reimbursement for Expenses/Loss	-998.00
12/04/2023	13224	Cowley, Dale	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-950.00
12/04/2023	13219	Amtrust North America	4009 Workers Comp	-6,537.00
12/04/2023	13225	Cusmano, Gaetano	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-736.00
12/04/2023	13226	Danus, James	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-887.00
12/04/2023	13227	Desien, Marc	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-873.00
12/04/2023	13228	Dodson, Jake	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-1,000.00
12/04/2023	13229	Ryan Falkman	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-937.00
12/04/2023	13230	Gallo, Matt	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-714.00
12/04/2023	13231	Gethins, John, JR	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-1,100.00
12/04/2023	13232	Graziano, Jesse	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-853.00
12/04/2023	13233	Hansch, Henry	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-642.00
12/04/2023	13234	Heizmann, Pauline	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-536.00
12/04/2023	13235	Hueg, Kamdin	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-948.00
12/04/2023	13236	Jubinski, Ken	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-675.00
12/04/2023	13237	Kelly, Eric	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-1,003.00
12/04/2023	13238	Kelly, Shane	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-586.00
12/04/2023	13239	Koba, Jack	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-1,100.00
12/04/2023	13240	Eric Krygoski	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-620.00
12/04/2023	13241	LaSota, Mathew	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-900.00
12/04/2023	13242	Makowski, Joseph	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-828.00
12/04/2023	13243	Mihalko, Joseph Jr.	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-895.00
12/04/2023	13244	Mihalko, Marianna	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-778.00
12/04/2023	13245	Monahan, Michael	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-973.00
12/04/2023	13246	Santini, Anthony	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-1,000.00
12/04/2023	13247	Santini, Joseph	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-1,003.00
12/04/2023	13248	Shearer, Derrick	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-1,003.00
12/04/2023	13249	Tursi, Frank	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-1,000.00
12/04/2023	13250	Van Seggern, Steven	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-781.00
12/04/2023	13251	Willans, Steve	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-545.00
12/04/2023	13252	Wodynski, William	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-875.00
12/04/2023	13253	Ziccarello, Ricky	5004 Clothing Allowance / Reim	-781.00
12/04/2023	13254	Lane Biviano, Esq.	5006 Legal Expense	-3,654.00
12/06/2023	eft	NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits Health	4001 Medical/Dental Insurance	-11,928.79
12/08/2023	13255	Tasc Fire Apparatus, Inc.	8003 - Testing - Hose / Repair	-260.00
12/08/2023	13256	Stewart & Stevenson Power Products	21 / 81 8604 ERS /Power DMS/Mobile EYES	-712.76
12/08/2023	13257	ESO		-246.40
12/11/2023	13258	Quinn, Richard	Commissioners	-2,000.00
12/11/2023	13259	Police & Firemen's Insurance Association	4006 Police & Fire Insurance	-590.16
12/11/2023	13260	Stewart & Stevenson Power Products	6011 Bldg - Station Generator	-5,005.68
12/11/2023	13261	Auto Zone	7003 Vehicle Maintenance - Cars	-146.67

12/11/2023	13262	Optimum 10 Troy	6013 Bldg - Cable /VOIP/Verizon	-414.28
12/11/2023	13263	Finish Line Car Wash	7003 Vehicle Maintenance - Cars	-12.00
12/11/2023	13264	Township of Hanover	-SPLIT-	-624.89
12/11/2023	13265	Eagle Automotive	20 / 80	<u>-1,106.25</u>
				-
				174,591.90

At this a motion was made to go into closed session to discuss contract matters. The motion was made by Comm. Ehrich and seconded by Comm. Quinn. It passed unanimously.

Board came out of Closed Session at 9:56 pm.

At this time, Comm. Ehrich made a resolution that would introduce the proposed 2024 Budget. The total budget would be \$2,473,195.00 with the amount to be raised by taxation to be \$2,248,012.00. This is a 2% increase from last year. The amount is .091. For the average homeowner in Whippany, whose home is assessed at \$427,500, the increase would be \$8.55 per year or 72 cents per month.

*A motion to accept the Resolution of the 2024 proposed budget was made by Comm. Ehrich. It was seconded by Comm. Quinn and passed with the following vote: (Commissioner Cobane had to leave after the Closed Session).

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

ABSENT: Cobane

NAYS: None

The Board decided to notify attorney Lane Biviano that his services will be put on hold for now.

Comm Gethins made a motion to adjourn. Comm. Willans seconded the motion and it passed by the following vote;

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

ABSENT: Cobane

NAYS: None

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Hammond

Assistant to the Board