

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

July 14, 2025

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

Commissioners present: Cobane, Gethins, Cortright and Cozzarelli

Absent: Brunner

At this time Chairman Brunner 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.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Comm Cozzarelli called for the acceptance of the minutes from the last meeting. Comm. Gethins seconded the move, and it was carried by the following vote:

AYES: Cobane, Cortright, Gethins & Cozzarelli

ABSENT: Brunner

NAYS: None

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The following Treasurer's report was submitted.

Treasurer's Report - July 14, 2025

For the month of June, 2025

General Checking Account #: XXXXXX3244

TD Bank

Balance On Hand - May 31, 2025	\$1,335,527.57
June checks	(\$102,657.00)

Deposits for the Month of June, 2025

State of NJ	Acct 2013 3rd Qtr rebate	\$18,018.66
Permits & Fees - Checks & Cash	Acct 2011 - Permits & fees	\$971.00
Registration fees - Checks / cash	Acct 2008	\$825.00
Tyler Payments	Registration Fees	\$900.00
Tyler payments	Permits / Fees	\$108.00
District Taxes		\$356,764.00

<u>Balance on Hand, June 30, 2025</u>	<u>(matches Quickbooks)</u>	<u>\$1,610,457.23</u>
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Checks Submitted this Month's Meeting	<u>\$141,276.18</u>
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Business 12 Month CD -x0575

Matures 12-7-25 %

\$228,478.73

Business 6 Month CD - TD Bank X9425

Matures -3-4-25

\$228,421.66

Penalty Checking Account # XXXX3773

TD Bank

Balance on Hand, June 30, 2025

\$14,537.07

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Comm. Cobane. It was seconded by Comm. Cortright and passed by the following roll call vote:

ROLL CALL: Cobane – AYE - Cozzarelli– AYE; Cortright -Aye, Gethins – AYE

ABSENT – Brunner

NAYS - None

CHIEF'S REPORT

Supplies, Equipment, and Maintenance

- Purchases made from Amazon and Home Depot

Apparatus

- Ladder Nozzle Repaired
- AC systems on S-23 recharged and R-20 AC system repaired

Training

- Ladder Truck training / testing
- Annual / Quarterly requirements still need to be completed by some members. If not completed they will be placed on administrative leave.

Purchases

Nothing at this time

Fire Prevention

- **114** Inspections / re-inspections were conducted last month. **\$3,903.00** in fees were billed and being collected. Total of **\$25,691.00** for 2025.

EMS

- (56) Calls were answered last month.

Fire

- (69) Calls were answered last month.

125 Total calls answered

Other Matters and Announcements

- Conducted Plan reviews
- Processed special event permits
- Completed Firework EAP and conducted standby / Inspection
- Meeting on Plan reviews
- Process special event permits
- New Hires are going thru the process of hiring.
- 2 OPRA request were processed 1 we had no record of Accident (car vs pole)
Second one was for a fire report at a residential property.
- Attached to this report of the weekly reports sent over the month of June
- DCA Minimum Mandatory Qualifications (on going)
- Proposed new Chief's contract (on going since 2021), Also two would like to discuss where we stand with 2 issues. 1. Payout of unused sick time and 2. Pay out of accumulated over time (on going since Oct 2024)
- Incentive program for crew calls / new Strategic Plan.

*A motion was made to accept the Chief's report by Comm. Cozzarelli. It was seconded by Comm. Cortright and passed unanimously by all Commissioners present.

COMMUNICATIONS - Nothing at this time

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL – Three applicants have applied for the open administrative position

BUILDING - Nothing at this time

APPARATUS – The ladder has been repaired. Two apparatuses have been fixed. Comm Cortright asked to have Chris Foer look over the ladder truck before it is out of warranty. They've already found a loose hose and want to see if there is anything else to report to Pierce.
84's light bar works now.

INSURANCE – A return of \$7850 was found after our audit. Comm Cortright would like to look into a VFIS policy like we used to have to protect the guys. Just to have another resource.

TOWNSHIP – Nothing at this time.

FIRE COMPANY – Nothing at this time.

FIRST AID – 56 EMS calls this month

OLD BUSINESS – Chief delineated 5 incidents over the weekend with no response from us.

NEW BUSINESS –

Chief reported that there is a response needed for PEOSHJ and it is due by August 8th. They would like to see revised SOGs. We are going to run it by our labor attorney to revise them.

John will follow up with Freddie – The changes are outlined in red and an email went to all Commissioners. Chief is looking for the Board's approval to submit to PEOSH.

Comm Cortright mentioned the remedial training. We have had no rules or regulations for Junior firefighters, Some of the things that PEOSH is looking for - We need to do a risk assessment – what level PPE is needed and have the site location looked at ahead of time.

Friday at All Season golf, there is a Big Night Out for Jim Danus. They want representatives there at 6 for set up – to greet people and collect donations. Chief would like to order a banner. It would be good to have some equipment around. He would appreciate it if members of the Board could make it. It's from 6:30 to 10 and they're asking for a \$20 donation. A flyer went out and it's on Facebook also.

Tuesday's company meeting – Chief would like to address the volunteers about the engine not getting out.

Building Official re: Chimney Rock said that there is no law saying that they have to comply with the hydrant requirement. Chief is waiting for an answer from them on a compromise before he goes to Braslow.

They have no yard hydrant – the compromise would be a remote FDC and they're balking at even that.

Inspector Makowski injured his foot on vacation and will be out tomorrow.

Overtime target is \$2300 per pay period. We are on track to overrun our budget at this rate. It should improve when we bring in the 2 new hires. Chief said there is also money in the salary line that can be moved into Overtime if needed.

PUBLIC PART OF THE MEETING 10 Members of the public attended.

Mary Beth Cowley – 22 Troy Hills Rd – Whippany: Asked about our injured firefighter and his improvement. The Board answered that he is improving and working toward going to a rehab center. She also brought in a newspaper article pointing out that there are more units being built in our town.

Tom Braviak – 8 Anna Terrace – Whippany: Had a few points:

#1: Regarding the last time a builder did not want to be compliant with the original plans – We had asked the Township Committee to investigate. The issue was that the developer presented evidence that the changed plan had been approved, by way of an old email.

The developer took the email from something else entirely and potentially committed fraud suggesting that the Board had agreed to the change. THAT was what the Township Liaison was supposed to look into. We were owed an answer to that. The Board never got one and didn't pursue it. This could have even been referred to a Prosecutors office.

Developers have sued the Township for other things but this is different. A 3-story structure with no standpipes has no means of getting water up to those second floors. As for the town, how could an Inspector or Code Inspector take the word of a developer who is saying that the fire department okayed this without checking with the fire department?

Chief replied that under the Fire Ordinance, the Chief can require the hydrant placement. He needs to move the FDC or go to court. Why have the Chief do site plans at all if the town isn't going to back him up?

The town should have our back.

Comm Cozzarelli – the threat of lawsuits from the State is nonsense.

#2 – Whippany Volunteer Fire Company – is in it's 110th year of service. He can't remember a time when an apparatus did not respond to a fire call. What are the reasons and what are we doing to fix it? The Chief has presented some plans that the Board did not want to embrace right now – is it because it increases the Career staff? There were no volunteers able to respond to those calls – Saturdays are bad in the summertime – people are away. Saying “We’re not there yet” doesn’t fix the problem. We need 2 or 3 more guys to be drivers and yes, we need re-training. This is a disaster waiting to happen and should be the highest priority this board has. Work with the Chief and stop making it about whose way is right.

Chief echoed that it is becoming more frequent.

Braviak - We have a roster of about 23 volunteers. There may be reasons why they didn't respond but we have to figure it out. Talking about it once a month doesn't solve the problem.

Cozzarelli – Response time is crucial. One answer is always 24/7/ Is there another answer? Without diminishing what the volunteers bring to the town?

Chief– Many missed calls – about 400 – are EMS.

Braviak – We have to solve the Fire response way before the EMS issue. IF plans HAVE been presented, how about trying to modify them instead of just rejecting them. What if you called and nobody came? That was our old flyer saying and it's true.

BILLS

Comm. Cobane moved that the following bills be paid. The move was seconded by Comm. Cortright and a vote was taken.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote.

ROLL CALL: Cozzarelli– AYE; Cobane -Aye, Gethins – AYE, Cortright - AYE

ABSENT – Brunner

NAYS – None

06/02/2025	14226	Amazon Business	-SPLIT-	-1,933.73
06/02/2025	14227	Verizon 838	6013 Bldg - Cable /VOIP/Verizon	-152.04
06/02/2025	14228	Air Group 1	6009 Bldg - HVAC	-263.86
06/02/2025	14229	Ciullo, Michael 1	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14230	Cusmano, Gaetano	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14231	Desien, Marc	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14232	Falkman, Ryan	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14233	Getsinger, Cameron	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14234	Kelly, Eric	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14235	Kelly, Shane	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14236	Krygoski, Eric	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14237	LaSota, Mathew	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14238	Mihalko, Joey	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14239	Mihalko, Joseph Jr.	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-50.00
06/02/2025	14240	Monahan, Michael	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14241	Santini, Anthony	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00

06/02/2025	14242	Santini, Joseph	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14243	Shearer, Derrick	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-50.00
06/02/2025	14244	Tursi, Frank	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14245	Cowley, Dale	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14246	Cusmano, Gaetano	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14247	Danus, James	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14248	Getsinger, Cameron	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14249	LaSota, Mathew	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14250	Mihalko, Joey	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14251	Mihalko, Joseph Jr.	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-50.00
06/02/2025	14252	Monahan, Michael	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14253	Santini, Anthony	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-15.00
06/02/2025	14254	Shearer, Derrick	4012 Fuel Vouchers	-50.00
06/04/2025	eft	NJ Division of Pension & Benefits- Pension	3007 Payroll Deductions	-3,800.00
06/04/2025	eft	NJ Division of Pension & Benefits- Pension	3007 Payroll Deductions	-1,000.00
06/06/2025	14255	Optimum 10 Troy	6013 Bldg - Cable /VOIP/Verizon	-415.22
06/06/2025	14256	Fire and Safety Services, LTD	7004 Vehicle Maint. LadderTruck	-1,698.74
06/06/2025	14257	Amtrust Financial Services, Inc.	4009 Workers Comp	-6,264.00
06/06/2025	14258	IIA Fire Department Testing	8003 - Testing - Hose / Repair	-4,070.10
06/06/2025	14259	NJ Fire Equipment Co.	9003 Fire Equipment (non bond)	-59.70
06/09/2025	14260	JCP&L 10 Troy	6001 Building - Gas & Electric	-1,763.54
06/09/2025	14261	PSE&G 10 Troy	6001 Building - Gas & Electric	-626.00
06/09/2025	14262	Auto Zone	7003 Vehicle Maintenance - Cars	-59.04
06/09/2025	eft	NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits Health	4001 Medical Insurance	-16,285.20
06/13/2025	14263	Eastern Janitorial Police & Firemen's Insurance Association	6008 Bldg - Cleaning Services	-605.00
06/13/2025	14264		4010 Police & Fire Insurance	0.00
06/13/2025	14265	NJ Fire Equipment Co.	7012 Equip Maint - SCBA	-2,200.40
06/13/2025	14266	Township of Hanover	-SPLIT-	-673.80
06/15/2025	eft	Board of Fire Commissioners	-SPLIT-	-21,988.48
06/16/2025	14267	Acrisure - Holmes & McDowell	-SPLIT- 7005 Vehicle Maint Pumpers/Resc	-10,435.00
06/16/2025	14268	Finish Line Car Wash		-28.00
06/16/2025	14269	US Bank Equipment Finance Police & Firemen's Insurance Association	5012 OfficeEqpt Rental (copier)	-392.91
06/20/2025	14270		4010 Police & Fire Insurance	-345.78
06/20/2025	14271	Albon Plumbing Heating & Water	6012 - Bldg/Grounds Maintenance	-330.00
06/20/2025	14272	CPR Baltimore	7022 Medical Supplies	-118.60
06/20/2025	14273	Approved Fire Protection	8004 Testing - Extinguishers	-1,144.22
06/20/2025	14274	Fire and Safety Services, LTD	22 / 83	-565.59
06/27/2025	14275	Morris County Public Safety Training Acad	8201 Training - Classes	-100.00
06/27/2025	14276	Standard Insurance Co	4003 Life Insurance	-1,772.10
06/30/2025	eft	Board of Fire Commissioners	-SPLIT-	-23,035.95
07/01/2025	14277	Verizon 838	6013 Bldg - Cable /VOIP/Verizon	-142.54
07/01/2025	14278	Verizon Wireless 884	6013 Bldg - Cable /VOIP/Verizon	-152.04
07/01/2025	14279	Township of Hanover	-SPLIT-	-1,375.34
07/01/2025	14280	Fire and Safety Services, LTD	21 / 81 6012 - Bldg/Grounds Maintenance	-1,801.51
07/01/2025	14281	AC Drywall & Painting, Inc.		-133.44
07/01/2025	14282	Braslow, Richard M. Esq	5006 Legal Expense	-60.00
07/01/2025	14283	Home Depot Credit Services	7017 Misc Maintenance Supplies	-389.44

07/03/2025	eft	NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits Health	4001 Medical Insurance	-11,970.03
07/03/2025	eft	NJ Division of Pension & Benefits-Pension	3007 Payroll Deductions	-7,591.54
07/03/2025	eft	NJ Division of Pension & Benefits-Pension	3007 Payroll Deductions	-483.93
07/11/2025	14284	SMCMUA 10 Troy	-SPLIT-	-624.40
07/11/2025	14285	Police & Firemen's Insurance Association	4010 Police & Fire Insurance	-345.78
07/11/2025	14286	Optimum 10 Troy	6013 Bldg - Cable /VOIP/Verizon	-414.98
07/11/2025	14287	Nielsen Ford	C-2 Deputy Chief car	-232.18
07/11/2025	14288	Morristown Medical Group	8401 Physicals - New Members	-595.00
07/11/2025	14289	JCP&L 10 Troy	6001 Building - Gas & Electric	-2,806.39
07/11/2025	14290	First Due Fabrication	9002 Rescue Equip-(non bond)	-1,759.95
07/11/2025	14291	Finish Line Car Wash	7005 Vehicle Maint Pumpers/Resc	-14.00
07/11/2025	14292	Buy Wise	7005 Vehicle Maint Pumpers/Resc	-27.98
07/11/2025	14293	Amtrust Financial Services, Inc.	4009 Workers Comp	-6,264.00
07/11/2025	14294	Amazon Business	-SPLIT-	-1,425.36
07/14/2025	14295	Janet Hammond	5013 Office Supplies	-9.35
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				<u>141,276.18</u>
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				<u>141,276.18</u>

At 8:14, Comm Cozzarelli made a motion to enter into Closed Session for personnel matters.

At 9:58, the Board came out of Closed session.

A motion was made by Comm. Gethins to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Comm. Cortright and passed unanimously by all Commissioners present.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Hammond, Assistant to the Board