

Meeting was called to order December 12, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. John Boyle, Jr. opened the meeting under the open public meeting guidelines.

Roll Call:

Robert Cromer - present
Robert Holmes – present
Ian Thompson – absent
John Boyle, Jr. – present
Derek DeLuca - present

After the flag salute and moment of silence Robert Cromer motioned to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2023, Robert Holmes seconded.

Communications:

Correspondence from Sendzik & Sendzik
Recall on 2007 Tahoe
Invoice from Withum
Notice from NJ Dept of Labor

Insurance Report:

Nothing new to report; Soden has a representative investigating previously submitted accident report.

Legal Report:

John Boyle, Jr. offered the following line item transfers
\$64,243.91 from Membership & Retention to Equipment for the purchase of UTV and trailer fan;
\$4,513.22 from LOSAP to training
\$2,190.00 from Vehicle Maintenance to PPE
\$6,753.08 from Vehicle Maintenance to Equipment
\$3,549.37 from LOSAP to Hydrant Rentals
\$5,121.87 from Vehicle Maintenance to Professional Services

Robert Holmes motioned to approve, Robert Cromer seconded, roll call vote, all in favor, Ian Thompson absent.

John Boyle, Jr. offered Resolution Setting Date, Time and Place of the Annual Fire District Budget Election pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-72(B)
Derek DeLuca motioned to approve, Robert Cromer seconded, roll call vote, all in favor, Ian Thompson absent.

John Boyle, Jr. offered Resolution Establishing a Temporary Budget pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-78.17

Derek DeLuca motioned to approve, Robert Cromer seconded, roll call vote, all in favor, Ian Thompson absent.

Accountant Report:

Audit is underway, 2 items were outstanding and have been provided. Robert Holmes motioned to approve cost of audit preparation in the amount of \$19,500.00 and Budget preparation in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the year, Robert Cromer seconded, roll call vote, all in favor, Ian Thompson absent.

Financial Report:

Derek Deluca reviewed the list of bills for the month, Robert Holmes motioned to approve and pay all bills, Robert Cromer. seconded.

John Boyle made a recommendation regarding utilities bills that would be coming in next week, would like approval to pay them prior to the January meeting. Robert Holmes motioned to pay utility bills, Robert Cromer seconded, roll call vote, all in favor. Ian Thompson absent.

Committees:

Trucks:

Re-lettering on trucks almost complete, trucks should not be out of service long.

Had discussion with Defender regarding 396, they valued the truck as is without a broker at \$25,000 to sell it, however, no one would take a non-compliant truck, would need to do repairs prior to selling, the cost to have them come out and look at the truck was \$2,700.00. Hope Fire Company sent a letter expressing interest in the truck. John Boyle, Jr. reached out to their Chief and advised him of all the issues so there were no surprises. They understood and would like to work with the Board, John Boyle, Jr. would like to see the truck go to someone who would use it. Ian Thompson had advised that he would abstain from any decision.

John Boyle, Jr. made a motion to give the truck to Hope Fire Company, as is, with them assuming all responsibility, if they ever get rid of the truck, the Board would get 1st chance to get the truck back, Derek Deluca seconded, roll call vote, John Boyle, Jr. yes, Robert Holmes, yes, Derek DeLuca, yes, Robert Cromer, yes. Ian Thompson absent.

Truck may go as quick as one week, in accordance with the Morganville Chief's decision when it can go.

New Chief's Truck –

28-391

Pumper/Tanker

Pre-con is 12/29/2023 at Defender via Zoom, would like to look into hiring the independent inspector again.

UTV – was delivered, will not be painted, will wrap sides and hood.

Equipment:

There are a couple of outstanding items from 2023.

Radios:

Radios are on order, township order pushed back 3 months.

Fire Police:

Nothing to report.

New Garage:

Bid has been confirmed, all documentation was included, bid awarded to SkyeCo.

Steel apparatus has had final inspection for plumbing, fire and building, electrical inspector coming back.

When old building comes done, the First Aid has offered their building for storage and meeting place.

There was discussion regarding Lorelei and Crest Engineering and additional costs they are trying to add on to quote, will try to get her to finish under current contract. Robert Holmes motioned to allow 2 commissioners to approve alterations to engineering contract, if need be, Robert Cromer seconded, roll call vote, all in favor, Ian Thompson absent.

Building and Grounds:

Future of the District:

STIPEND PROGRAM

Payout schedule for 2023 was pushed off to December to discuss prorated payment for ¼ year due to program starting mid year. There was discussion on payment structure. The maximum payment to a duty crew member is \$8,600.00/year.

Robert Holmes motioned to pay \$100 per person per duty crew with a cap of \$8,600.00 annually, with fire company being responsible to disburse and be responsible for 1099/W-2s. Robert Cromer seconded, roll call vote, all in favor. Ian Thompson absent

LOSAP:

Asked Chief and President to have percentages for 2023 prepared for January meeting.

HYDRANT:

There will be a 2% increase in hydrant costs next year, \$375,000 to \$390,000.00.

TOWNSHIP LIASSON:

Unfinished Business:

Robert Holmes asked if there has been any progress with bringing the First Aid over, was advised it is subject to a 3 way vote, first the First Aid would need to vote, then the Fire Company, then the Board, however, the feeling is it would be beneficial to bring them over.

Robert asked what that would do to the budget cap, there was discussion that tax wise it probably would not affect the tax rate. The Officers and Board would have to meet with the town to discuss the town still funding the First Aid for a few years.

New Business:

Labeling 2 new trucks, color coding and updating labels on apparatus.

Chiefs Report:

Nothing new to report.

Presidents Report:

John Boyle, Sr. advised that all violations have been cleared with all agencies, the cost was approximately \$376 in repairs, need to sheetrock on small spot.

The compressor is out; there was some damage in the storage trailer due to moisture; called to complain about the internet service at the firehouse; was happy that the bid has been awarded, great job done.

Comments from the Floor:

None

Robert Holmes motioned to adjourn the regular meeting Robert Cromer seconded,

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Cromer