

**TOWNSHIP OF PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1  
REGULAR MEETING  
June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 7:30 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No.1 was called to order at 7:33 PM by Commissioner Berry at the Tarn Drive Firehouse at 909 Tabor Road, Morris Plains, New Jersey.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Berry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. STATEMENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of June 26, 2024 was included in a list of meetings notice sent to The Daily Record and advertised in said newspaper on November 20, 2023, posted on the bulletin board in the Parsippany-Troy Hills Municipal Building, 1001 Parsippany Boulevard, Parsippany, New Jersey, and the Mount Tabor Firehouse, 909 Tarn Road on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Township Clerk and at the Mount Tabor Fire House.

4. ROLL CALL

Commissioners present: Berry, Hazel, Rieben, Jamieson, Masker.

Department representation: Deputy Chief Crawford, Lieutenant Haas, President Hollner, Captain Roca.

5. AGENDA REVIEW

President Berry reviewed the agenda for this meeting.

6. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Minutes from the regular May meeting were distributed via email by Commissioner Hazel for all commissioners to review. Minutes from the regular May meeting were approved via a motion by Commissioner Jamieson, seconded by Commissioner Masker, and carried by unanimous vote.

7. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

No communications have been received since the last meeting.

8. RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-6:

PLACEHOLDER RESOLUTION TITLE

The resolution was adopted by the following roll-call vote:

Aye: --

Nay: --

## 9. REPORTS

### i. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's monthly report for May 2024 declaring operating expenses of \$27,875.57 was read and distributed for all Commissioners to review.

Significant expenses included \$7,526.05 to Lexipol for policy and training software implementation; \$4,1875.00 to Rescue Products Inc. for rope rescue and escape training equipment; and \$2,225.00 to Thomas Dungan Landscaping for Powder Mill and Tarn Drive landscaping.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Commissioner Hazel, seconded by Commissioner Jamieson, and carried by unanimous vote.

### ii. Truck Report

T11 - New tower coming late September 2024.

E12- Approved graphics and fabrication work pending.

E13 - Absolute fixed the video recorder and tank sending unit. Looked at foam issue, still broken, needs to go to their shop. Awaiting date.

R14 - Phoenix fixed the light tower, door sensor, and A/C condensation leak. New tablet installed, see notes below about updating to modem. Holmatro yearly service complete.

E15 - Needs tires per Phoenix Fire's Report. Need to firm up sale; New truck expected September.

U16 – Graphics complete. Phoenix repaired the door latch and camera/battery issues.

### iii. Buildings Report

#### Powder Mill

An overflowing gutter should be looked at near the parking lot as it washes mulch away.

Looking to schedule countertop replacement in coming weeks.

Bay doorhandles broken.

#### Tarn

A/C programming needs to be adjusted as the meeting room sits too warm. Door Handle from back stairs into bays is broken.

### iv. Radio Report

Good shape with radios. May need more pagers for stock for purchase in Q4.

### v. Insurance Report

New members are on insurance.

### vi. Fire Prevention

Mountain club management company may change. Fire Official retiring this fall.

vii. Joint Board Meeting Report

Meeting in June lightly attended. Good conversations. August will be at District 2.

viii. Chief's Report

201 Calls to date.

5/24 RIC to Dover, 14/16 staffed but not on 1 truck; 6/6 CFA Minado 1 Chief, 1 Exterior, 1 Interior unable to roll at Powder Mill; 6/7 "car fire" 2 exterior and 1 interior arriving after 7 min; 6/7 RIC to CK 2 interior, 1 officer, plus Nick, but would've went to CK if it was a fire; 6/8 CFA, on a Saturday morning, 1 officer 1 exterior; 6/8 MA for MVC structure, 1 officer 2 exterior, 1 interior 1 probationary member; 6/8 CFA 1 chief, 1 officer 1 FF, 3 separate trucks; 6/18 RIC to Denville 2 officer, 2 exterior; 6/18 MVC fluid spill 2 officers, 2 exterior all else delayed more than 7min; 6/19 Odor of gas 2 officer 1 interior, 3 trucks; 6/20 RFA 2 officers, 1 interior, 3 exterior; 6/22 CFA 1 chief, 1 exterior, 1 interior 1 probationary member; 6/22 REPORTED STRUCTURE FIRE IN OUR DISTRICT- 1 Chief, 1 Officer, 2 interior, 1 exterior, 1 neither. We got dispatched to an AFA first, then when it got toned for the fire we only added 2 people. We did not meet the 2 in 2 out minimum for our own district; 6/24 CFA 1 chief, 2 exterior, 1 probationary member; 6/25 CFA 2 chiefs, 1 officer, 2 exterior, 1 probationary member.

New Construction: 1500 Littleton Road project (250 Senior Apartments + Assisted Living) under way. 740 Mountain Way is under way for a 2 story apartment complex and will likely be completed this year. 500 West Hanover Ave County will be expanding lot to add massive garage and offices on grounds. Plan review submitted 6/25/24.

Chiefs have been actively working on updating SOP's with Lexipol. Very good feedback so far. The company is easy to work with and will meet weekly to review policies to roll out.

Waiting on Par-Troy Chief to draft a shared services agreement to handle compliance on our behalf pending town budget approval.

A proposal for boots was referenced in the Chief's written report for \$244 per pair of boots which would be under usage controls.

There has been pushback on the April decision to disallow shorts.

Changes to the Run Card for MVA with Injuries and Greystone were submitted to county last week. It can take 2 weeks.

There are ongoing discussions about how to upgrade the extrication equipment on Rescue 14.

Run Cards for MVA with injuries were discussed.

RIT Team dispatches were discussed with concern surrounding many incidents being dispatched as a structure fire.

Commissioner Masker discussed reaching out to districts with respect to consolidation.

#### 10. INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

President Hollner discussed the Department's motion at their last general meeting to use "...District No. 1 DBA as Mount Tabor Volunteer Fire Department" and stated that the Board of Fire Commissioners cannot use the name "Mount Tabor Volunteer Fire Department" as if it's the same entity as the District. The use of the term "and/or" was brought up at the last commissioners meeting. Website the FD logo is still there.

#### 11. APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE

A motion to pay pending bills was made by Commissioner Jamieson, seconded by Commissioner Hazel, and carried by unanimous vote.

#### 12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session took place at this meeting.

#### 13. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Masker makes a motion that we budget to replace 2 SCBAs per year for the next 10 years and 8 cylinders a year for the next 5-6 years using 2 percent excess surplus to cover such expenses with up to a \$30,000 increase in the operating budget. Commissioner Rieben Seconds the motion. Discussion confirms that new SCBAs will have a lifetime warranty and that our current SCBAs will see increased maintenance expenses now that their 10 year warranty is expiring. It is confirmed that SCBAs and bottles can be considered capital equipment. Commissioner Hazel states that these expenses are an important part of operating a fire department and that increases in expenses for SCBAs should first consider sacrificing other expenses not essential to firefighting before increasing the burden to the taxpayers. The motion is carried by a unanimous vote.

The potential replacement of Rescue 14 (2007) was discussed. There is currently an exploratory committee meeting surrounding this topic since apparatus ordering lead times are increasing. The need for a new rescue was questioned. Alternatives to ordering a new rescue, including distributing equipment on the new Tower and considering utility vehicles, should be considered.

Commissioner Jaieson makes a motion that our policy language uses "and/or" instead of "DBA" in referencing the District and the Mount Tabor Volunteer Fire Department. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Rieben and is carried with Commissioner Masker abstaining.

Commissioner Jamieson makes a motion we reinstate the use of shorts. Commissioner Hazel seconds this motion. The motion is carried with Commissioner Masker dissenting.

The replacement of extriction equipment as mentioned in the Chief's report was discussed. This topic requires more information and coordination with the new Rescue 14 exploratory committee to before coming to a decision.

#### 14. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Masker addressed the possibility of accepting delivery for the new Engine 15 and selling it given the market for new fire engines. A similar activity was rejected by the DCA for another District, however we may be able to justify such actions given how our personnel response dynamics have changed since Engine 15 was ordered and has been trending.

Commissioner Hazel recommends we evaluate the impacts of discontinuing operations from the Simpson Avenue firehouse in the interest of consolidating our limited resources on apparatus out of the Tarn Drive firehouse. Commissioner Masker supports this consideration.

Commissioner Masker recommends we engage a consulting group for fire district consolidation considerations and that we more formally engage other Districts' interest.

A motion to adjourn at 9:28 PM was made by Commissioner Jamieson, seconded by Commissioner Hazel and carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerard Hazel  
Commissioner