

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT #2

February 17, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Robert Zimmerman. Mr. Zimmerman stated that notice had been given to the Herald Newspapers, the official paper and is posted on the bulletin board of the Middle Township Municipal Hall as required by P.L. 1975, c231, the Sunshine Law.

Roll call was taken with commissioners Robert Zimmerman, Conrad Johnson, John Menz and Jean Zimmerman present. Also present were Rio Grande Fire Company President Scott Aaron Sill, Fire Official Dan DeSimone, Bob Sweeten, Skip Jastremski, Jim Belles and Rio Grande Fire Company Chief Howard Graham. Salvatore DeSimone, Richard Braslow, Attorney and David McNally, CPA of Holt McNally and Associates, were absent.

COMMUNICATION: Jean Zimmerman stated that she had received an email from the County Clerk's office with the election results spreadsheet and the Certification Fire District Budget from Middle Township. Both of which along with the state's certification, are to be filled out after the election and faxed, emailed and mailed back to them. She also received the 2022 contract from Holt McNally for the 2021 audit and their Certificate of Liability Insurance. She reminded everyone of the election on Saturday, February 19th at 2pm to 9pm. There will be a Re-Organization meeting on March 17th at 6:45pm prior to the regular meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: none at this time

NEW BUSINESS: Dan DeSimone said he will be putting an ad in the Herald and AC Press for a part time inspector at \$20.00/hr and they must have a NJ State Certified License for Inspection.

Robert Zimmerman asked Dan DeSimone if the affidavit was in effect or still being thought about. Dan said they could follow Court House and do an affidavit every three years or single, each year and actually inspect the places. An affidavit would be signed by the property owner stating they have smoke detectors and CO detectors and pay their fee and no inspection would be done. Dan said there will be a March 9th meeting to finalize everything. When questioned, Dan said that Court House is currently doing one year affidavits and trying to change to three year affidavits. Robert Zimmerman and Conrad Johnson preferred one year affidavits to the three year.

Bob Sweeten said the 30 day LOSAP post for appeals was today and there were no appeals. That means there are 27 members qualified. He questioned if we were going to raise the fee

and Robert Zimmerman said he was ok with the raise. Motion Conrad Johnson, second John Menz to increase the CPI adjustment of .96% to \$1577.60 per person for a total of \$42,595.20.

Bob Sweeten had the Mutual Aid Agreement for Shawcrest from Lower Township #3 that needed our signatures. County Coordinators are asking chiefs to have their documents up to date.

Regarding the lawsuit, Bob Sweeten said he had numerous correspondence with Brown & Brown who realized they did insure us. He needs to answer the lawsuit by March 1, 2022.

Aaron Sill announced that the Annual Installation Dinner will be held on March 19th. He also reported that the water to the building had been turned off due to a leak in Bay 6. He had a quote from Broadley's Plumbing for \$27,890 to repair. They are supposed to start on Wednesday, February 23rd, 2022. Aaron said he wasn't sure of any undermining of the concrete due to the leak and once the repair is finished, he will be looking to get concrete work done in the future. The galvanized pipes last 40-50 years and the fire house's pipes are at 56. Robert Zimmerman had previously talked with the commissioners and told Aaron that we would be able to give \$10,000 towards the repair. Motion John Menz, second Conrad Johnson to give \$10,000 to the fire company for the plumbing repair. Aaron mentioned that there are two water meters and wondered if we were being billed twice. Conrad Johnson said that the fire company may be qualified for a rebate from the water companies since the water was not being used. He said the plumber would sign an affidavit and document there was a leak for an unknown determined amount of time and get a rebate for water not used. John Menz said that NJ American Water is raising their rate to \$6.00 per hydrant and we have 61 hydrants with them.

CHIEF'S REPORT: 57 fire calls; on February 8th, Chuck came down to fit five guys for gear, not getting them until October; new member Julio Rivera; Barry is working on the Quint and tanker for yearly services, so far no issues; Utility 72-1 had oil change and Mr. Tire suggested replacing the tires soon since they are the originals. Robert Zimmerman questioned replacing the tires on the tanker (John Menz stated that we spent \$3,600.00 last year on a whole set of tires for 54) and the chief said that Barry commented that there is one more year left on the tires before they reach their seven years when they will have to be replaced; working on ISO paperwork. Robert Zimmerman said he was looking to get it done the first week of March; spreadsheet pretty much done for the county dispatch, will be switching over to county on March 1st at 7am; still waiting for 700 portable.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Robert Zimmerman read the bills, motion by resolution to pay the bills by Conrad Johnson, second John Menz, of \$55,741.42. Motion carried.

Jean Zimmerman, Secretary