

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT #2

May 20, 2021

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 Salvatore DeSimone, Conrad Johnson, Jean Zimmerman, John Menz and Robert Zimmerman present. Also present were Bob Sweeten, Kirby Stiltner, Greg Neill, Elijah Riebel, Ken Hewitt, Rio Grande Fire Company President Scott Aaron Sill, Jenifer Sill, Rio Grande Fire Assistant Fire Chief Jim Belles, Harold VanArtsdalen, Bill Frank, Skip Jastremski, Rio Grande Fire Chief Richard Sweeten, Larry Forsyth, Ron Panebianco, Fire Inspectors Kirby Stiltner Jr., Helen Graham, Mike Quigley and Mr. Nicholas Sittineri, Attorney. David McNally, CPA of Holt McNally and Associates, was absent.

COMMUNICATION: a Past Due notice was received from the Dept. of Commerce US Census Bureau for our 2021 Government Units Survey

OLD BUSINESS: Kirby Stiltner said that the Audit information had been picked up on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. He also stated that the QuickBooks program has not been upgraded yet.

As stated in the Re-Organization meeting, the Fire Election results from April 20, 2021 were Kirby Stiltner with 55 votes, John L. Menz with 167 votes, the Budget had 154 yes votes and 61 no votes.

NEW BUSINESS: Rich Sweeten had Mr. Sittineri look over the Resolution for Mutual Aid Agreement for the County. Motion John Menz, second Conrad Johnson to adopt the Authorizing Membership in a Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with Other County Participating Units.

John Menz said he would like to reorganize the command vehicles. Currently there are three vehicles being parked at private residences. He also would like to have them all matching colors. He would like to reassign the two black Tahoes to the chief and assistant chief. Robert Zimmerman said that because the 2020 Tahoe was bought with the public's ok that it should go to the Chief's Office. Robert said that he would like to have all the fire company's vehicles all the same color. John had an estimated cost of \$3,670 per vehicle for wrapping and lettering. Richard Sweeten had an estimated cost of \$2,000 for lettering. John asked about the Jeep. Motion John Menz, second Jean Zimmerman to switch the two black Fire Bureau Tahoes to the chief and assistant chief and the red Tahoe will go to the Fire Bureau. Salvatore DeSimone

asked where the money was coming from to do either the wrapping or lettering. Robert answered that it would be nice if the penalty money from the Fire Bureau would pay for it. Sal is against using the Fire Bureau money to pay for the lettering. The Fire Bureau will be approached. Robert said that he has documents showing the penalty money collected over the last three years of the Fire Bureau of which some of that money was supposed to go to the firehouse. Conrad Johnson said that the fire company needs to ask the bureau for their money.

Robert Zimmerman would like to have all Fire Bureau vehicles parked on fire property at all times starting by end of day tomorrow (Friday, May 21, 2021). Motion John Menz, second Jean Zimmerman to have all fire vehicles parked on fire company property. Conrad Johnson questioned the safety of the vehicles being parked on the firehouse property. Bob Sweeten said all vehicles are covered by JIF for any damage. Aaron Sill asked about having the vehicles' keys accessible in case they would need to be moved.

Robert Zimmerman mentioned about the township wanting to merge the two Fire Bureaus. Middle Township would like to hold a meeting with two representatives from the four fire districts. Conrad Johnson said he wants to protect our employees and would like to have a meeting with the district and our attorney. Jean Zimmerman thought that if the township took over the Fire Bureaus that they would use our inspectors along with the inspectors from Court House. Salvatore DeSimone said no, that the township would get rid of all the inspectors because it is a Civil Service job. Sal said that Court House doesn't care about Rio Grande and that they always lean towards Court House. He doesn't think there is anybody qualified to run the Fire Bureau in Court House. Mike Quigley stated that if they take it over then consider everything gone. He said that Rio Grande does everything by the book and Court House doesn't. Robert said that people have complained to him about the Fire Bureau not returning phone calls and not being there at the office when they stop by. Mike replied that the office is part time. Robert stated that this whole accident incident has opened a can of worms.

Bob Sweeten congratulated John Menz and Robert Zimmerman on their elections. He had the LOSAP agreement for signing and said that he would have to get in touch with Lincoln Financial to update the Plan Administrator to Robert Zimmerman as Chairman. Bob said there were no appeals from the 28 qualified members for LOSAP and that the district paid \$1,562.60 per person for a total cost of \$43,752.80 and also thanked the commissioners for the increase.

Greg Neill said the Fire Bureau has caused problems and suggested someone come in and review the procedure of the bureau, some kind of auditor. He doesn't feel any member of Rio Grande wants Court House to be in charge of them. Bob Sweeten said that our name was being dragged through the mud. Harold VanArtsdalen suggested training for disciplinary purposes. Robert Zimmerman wants to bring integrity back to the district. He also mentioned that he would talk with Mr. Braslow about disciplinary measures.

Robert Zimmerman thanked Kirby Stiltner and Mr. Sittineri for their services. He asked Kirby if he would help John Menz with the transition.

CHIEF'S REPORT: 116 fire calls; there was a township food drive on Saturday, May 15th, and will distribute the food collected to local food pantries; utility truck had diesel leak and is at Gentilini's for cracked fuel pressure regulator and oil change; projector is in and waiting for Denny to hook up the electric; next two Wednesdays RIT training; Saturday, May 21st, Be Kind to Your Mind event at Okie Wisting park sponsored by the township; June 22nd have hose testing, pump and aerial to be scheduled by end of summer; 3 big trucks to get annual maintenance schedule; Quint had starting issue that was broke; new truck was the busiest ever of new trucks in its first month; had training on the new truck and compressed air foam; Tesla guideline for electric vehicles fire is pretty hard to stop.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Robert Zimmerman read the bills, motion by resolution to pay the bills by Salvatore DeSimone, second John Menz, of \$59,908.32. Motion carried.

[Jean Zimmerman, Secretary](#)