

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT #2

June 20, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Salvatore DeSimone. Mr. DeSimone 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, Kirby Stiltner, Robert Zimmerman and Jean Zimmerman present. Bob Sweeten, Rio Grande Fire Chief Richard Sweeten, Rio Grande Fire Company President Scott A. Sill, Fire Official Dan DeSimone, James Snyder, Larry Forsyth and wife, Helen Graham, Wayne Hall Jr., Rio Grande Assistant Fire Chief Harold VanArtsdalen, Buster Graham, Gary Rudy, Jim Belles, Tony Krieg and Attorney Mr. Nicholas Sittineri were also present. Lauren Holman, Accountant of Holman Frenia Allison P.C., was absent.

COMMUNICATIONS: Letter from the county regarding Kmart

OLD BUSINESS: None at this time

NEW BUSINESS: on May 31, 2019, Bob Sweeten and Bob Zimmerman went to a meeting at Erma firehouse along with Town Bank firefighters regarding Lincoln Financial and LOSAP. They discussed hardship withdrawal, retirement and death. This is a summary of their discussion:

If a member who is vested (has 5 years of contributions to their account) wants to make a withdrawal they can: 1. Resign from the Fire Company which is a separation of service. They are then eligible to receive their LOSAP account proceeds. After they receive the proceeds they can then rejoin the Fire Company and start over with LOSAP like a new member, which means they would have to go through the 5 year vesting again; 2. Resign from the LOSAP program and then receive their LOSAP account proceeds. If they resign from the program they are not eligible to return to the program in the future; 3. Request a hardship withdrawal. This should be for extreme cases only such as eviction, foreclosure, medical bills. These needs would need written documentation and supporting income and bill statements. Regarding Transfers: if a member transfers from one fire company with a LOSAP to another fire company with a LOSAP they would need to be vested in the prior company and vested in the new company before a transfer

could be made. Bob said that the MTFD#2 should have a written rule regarding the amount of time a non-vested member who leaves the fire company can leave their account open. He suggested two years. After that time the proceeds should be paid to MTFD#2. He said we should review the list each year to see who falls into this criteria. Regarding Retirement: members who would like to take LOSAP to supplement retirement can remove themselves from the LOSAP program but would not be eligible for future contributions even if they remain active in the Company. Regarding Death: if a member who is not vested passes away the MTFD#2 can make a Resolution to pay the LOSAP account proceeds to the beneficiary. Bob also suggested that MTFD#2 should probably create a rule that new members are only eligible for a contribution if they serve a full calendar year (Jan1-Dec31).

Bob Sweeten said the truck committee had looked at four (4) trucks and cabs and have decided to switch the cab/chassis from a Pierce Quantum to a Pierce Enforcer for several reasons including more room in the cab, better visibility and lower step height. The committee has also decided to switch from a Heavy Duty Rescue Pumper body (HDRP) to a PUC body. This will increase their compartment storage by 17 cubic feet and also allow the truck length to be shorter. The committee is also working to not have to put a hydraulic generator on the truck. This would be possible since they will be using battery powered extrication equipment and battery powered tools such as fans, sawzalls, and portable scene lighting.

Bob Sweeten had an application for the New Jersey State Firemen's Association for John C. Winter IV. Motion Kirby Stiltner, second Conrad Johnson to accept the application for John C. Winter IV.

Aaron Sill, President of the Rio Grande Fire Company, asked for clarification of a comment Kirby had made at the meeting last night regarding the lot. The question was would the fire company allow the commission to add on to their building. Sal DeSimone explained that we had discussed the topic in 2017 but knew the idea would still be 3-5 years out. The idea would be to either add on to the existing firehouse which would contain new offices for the fire bureau and fire commission, a meeting room and garage space to house the vehicles. The other idea would be that we build a stand alone building on the lot. We are open to ideas from the firehouse in regards to what they would like to see in the future. Sal DeSimone added that the reason why a shed was added to the property was so that we would stop paying property taxes on the lot as per Township Tax regulations. It was also mentioned that regardless of the decision, the building would be turned over to the company.

There is rust on the five (5) year old Expedition's hood and tailgate. ABRA said it would cost \$6,500 to fix. Eddie's Auto said they could fix it for \$1,600. Motion Kirby Stiltner, second Conrad Johnson to have Eddie's Auto fix it at a cost up to \$1,700. All commissioners present voted aye.

CHIEF'S REPORT: 144 fire calls; Wayne Hall Jr graduated from Fire School 1 and Anthony Krieg and Ron Panebianco graduated from Fire School 2; all CVA bottles are done; air packs tested; looking at fast board for injured firefighter approximately \$2,500; July testing for hose and pumps and the ladders will be done before the firemen's convention in September; fire gear here; excess gear coats and pants are past 10 year limit and will see about donating to previous fire company in Alabama; have a junior coming in August.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Salvatore DeSimone read the bills, motion by resolution to pay the bills by Conrad Johnson second Kirby Stiltner, of \$51,371.95 Motion carried.

[Jean Zimmerman, Secretary](#)