



Winslow Township Fire District # 1



September 10, 2008
Winslow Township Fire District #1
9 Cedar Brook Road
Sicklerville, New Jersey 08081

WORKSHOP MEETING – Official Board Action May Be Taken

WINSLOW TOWNSHIP, FIRE DISTRICT #1

LOCATION OF MEETING: Winslow Township Municipal Building

OPENING OF MEETING:

Chairman Sirolli called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

SALUTE TO FLAG:

All present pledged their Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Gallo, present
Secretary Mammucari, present
Treasurer Pantalone, present
Commissioner Passarella, present
Chairman Sirolli, present

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Acting Chief Michael Scardino, Winslow Township Fire Department
Battalion Chief Marc Rigberg, Winslow Township Fire Department
Captain Friend, Acting Fire Marshal
Firefighter Farinelli, IAFF Union Local 3249 Shop Steward

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:

This meeting was being conducted in full compliance with the "Open Public Meeting Law," and that Notice was sent to the Courier-Post and Record Breeze. In addition, due Notice was posted on the Official Bulletin Board of Winslow Township and no smoking was permitted in the room during the meeting. Chairman Sirolli announced where the emergency exits were.

Administrative Office

Chairman Sirolli

Station 3 Roof Issue – Chairman Sirolli announced that the Engineering Report was mailed out to the Fire District and the Board will hold a Special Meeting Monday, September 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building to go over the report in detail. Chairman Sirolli invited union representation, Station 3 representation, Mayor Sue Ann Metzner, and Public Safety Director, Karl Auwarter to the meeting. Discussions were then held on placement of the temporary office trailer. The Board decided to meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday evening at the Fire District Office to address the plumbing/gas connections and placement of the office space. Delivery of the trailer was said to take an estimated 2-3 weeks. Commissioner Mammucari was chosen to work with Chief Scardino in working out the details of electricians, servers, phones, etc.

The insurance company was contacted to inquire if the costs were covered under the plan.

Interest Rates on Accounts – Chairman Sirolli expressed his concerns on the anticipated revenue interest rates being down. He advised that Sharon had looked into the interest rates and was advised that the accounts were not setup properly to adjust the interest rates. The Board was then informed that Sharon had met with Commerce Bank who insured a 3% interest rate on the money market account. The representative will inquire if the District could get the 3% rate for the previous months. A small discussion was held on the District being able to utilize CD's. The money market interest rate was said to be a better rate than a CD. The Board also addressed researching the use of other banks to get a better rate. Chairman Sirolli commended Sharon Lang for transferring funds at the last moment to get the most interest for the Fire District.

Budget Status-The Board then addressed line item expenditures and the concern for a cut off of District spending. Commissioner Pantalone felt the Fire District should begin this process at the end of September, beginning of October. Commissioner Gallo requested to sit in on the budget meetings to gain knowledge of the procedures followed.

A small discussion ensued on the utilization of fire station fax lines with Station 4's billing to be much higher. This matter will be addressed with Station 4. Then addressed was the phone rates billed to the Fire District. Chief Scardino will discuss the fixed rates on fax lines with Lorraine.

Commissioner Gallo questioned the purchase of a computer. He was informed that Captain Friend shopped around and found Walmart to have the best price. Two (2) computers were purchased for this pricing.

Fire Inspections- Chairman Sirolli was informed by Captain Friend that invoicing was sent out for the Non life hazards and those that have not paid to date are currently entering a penalty phase. Life hazards were said to be billed through the state. Captain Friend estimated that business inspections should be caught up by the end of the month.

Chesilhurst- Board members were briefed on the meeting with the Borough of Chesilhurst. Mayor Blunt and Solicitor Briddell were pleased with the information Chief Scardino provided and accepted the offer of Winslow Township Fire District providing fire department coverage to Chesilhurst. One stipulation articulated was for Chesilhurst to be included in approving membership. The agreement will be finalized during October's monthly meeting. Billing will be submitted at what each call is dispatched. Chief Scardino will be visiting Chesilhurst Fire Station in the near future to assess the facility. As mentioned in the agreement, WTFD will be provided quarterly invoicing to Chesilhurst

with the proper county run report information. The mayor also expressed interest in WTFD providing fire prevention to their area. This topic will be presented for discussions at the next meeting.

Michael Saraceni- Everyone was briefed on the meetings held with Michael Saraceni to discuss his return in an administrative capacity. In order for Michael Saraceni to return to the Fire District, pension concerns needed to be rectified. Correspondence was sent to the Pension Board stating the capacity of which Mr. Saraceni will exist in the Department. The Board will need to work on a contract for Michael Saraceni. Chairman Sirolli asked that each Board member be copied Chief Finley and Michael Saraceni's old contract and mark their revisions for discussions at the next Closed Session to be held September 24, 2008. Distribution of the contracts was agreed to be placed in commissioner bins. The Board had hoped that his employment start date would be December 1st.

Correspondence from Chief Bello of Winslow Police Department- Chairman Sirolli spoke on the thank you letter from the police department. He then mentioned the police department's help in providing background investigations for the members of the fire department. A small discussion was held on the notification on the police department not being able to do background checks. To date, the Fire District did not receive this notification.

Awards Ceremony- Chairman Sirolli commended Commissioners Mammucari and Passarella for all their work on the Department picnic. Then addressed was an awards ceremony to be held in March. Chief Scardino will begin researching a location and ceremony arrangements.

Fire Stations- Station 7 is prepared to move forward in turning over the building. This topic is addressed further under Commissioner Passarella's area.

Camden County Improvement Authority- Chairman Sirolli provided Administrative Clerk Pataky's report. It was advised that Lorraine had spoke with Chris Morris of the Camden County Improvement Authority about their interest in helping the Fire District obtain funding for repairs and/or a new building. The C.C. Improvement Authority advised that they work with the same bond council that the District uses, Parker McCay.

Vice Chairman Passarella

Fire Stations- Commissioner Passarella has advised that he had spoke to Solicitor Braslow who has made several attempts to contact Solicitor Carlamere. To date, Mr. Braslow has not received a return call. Station 7 was said to be prepared to sign the contract as long as the members have the use of a room. Amendments will be forwarded to Mr. Braslow who has drafted a station contract. Once the agreement with Sicklerville Fire Company is signed, the Fire District will then approach Winslow Fire Company who is ready to turn over their building. A survey was performed on Station 7 with title searches completed for Stations 3, 1 and 7.

Department Picnic- Commissioner Passarella asked the boards opinion on holding a picnic next year. All agreed to have a picnic in 2009. Commissioner Passarella will contact Great Times Day Camp and reserve a date for next year. A thank you note will also be sent to the camp thanking them and the staff's courtesy. Commissioner Mammucari asked that a thank you note be sent to Warren Distributing for the contribution to the picnic. Discussions were then held on the paid crew not attending the picnic. Firefighter Farinelli explained that he had provided the reasons why the paid crew could not attend when they were asked. He further explained that he could not answer for everyone but it was their option not to attend. Commissioner Passarella stated that he was

disappointed in the paid crew not attending and hoped to speak with each of them to gain fire department unity. He also expressed his displeasure in many of the volunteer stations not attending the picnic, particularly Station 6 who stood up for the picnic from the beginning.

Chief Scardino suggested a give away gift for the picnic next year.

Treasurer Pantalone

Requisition Requests- The Board referred back to budget discussions and engineering costs. The total costs for the engineer was estimated at \$20,000. Board members were concerned with the tight budget and wanted to know when spending needed to come to a stop. Commissioner Pantalone assured the Board that he is in contact with Sharon on a daily basis and is watching the budget closely. A memo will be sent to the Board advising them to cease requisition requests by the end of the month.

Secretary Mammucari

Nothing.

Assistant Sec./Treasurer Gallo

Long Range Planning Committee- Commissioner Gallo provided a copy of the letter sent to each President that explains the committee's plans. He then mentioned that some of this information will be provided in the WTFD Newsletter. The Long Range Planning Committee is scheduled to meet Friday, September 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire District Office. All planning committee discussions will be relayed to the Mayor to keep communications open.

Administrative Clerk Pataky

Chairman Sirolli provided the report under his area. The Board were reminded to forward WTFD Newsletter information by September 24, 2008.

Acting Chief Scardino

Career Staff – Filling Officer Vacancies/Force Coverage- Chief Scardino expressed his concern on officer fill-ins. It was explained that the first officer is given the offer of equal rank. After asking Lieutenants, supervisor ranks are checked (consisting of Captain Friend, Battalion Chief Rigberg, then to the Chief). Chief Scardino felt uneasy when forcing firefighters to act as an officer as this posed a grievance for other firefighters who could win. Discussions were then held on a firefighter being approved off and the coverage needed for Wildwood weekend. The Chief then requested the Board and union modify the firefighter contract to provide options for such instances. Chief Scardino will ride the officer's seat during the day to provide proper minimum staffing.

Fire Prevention- Chief Scardino announced that the paid firefighters were permitted to work the fire prevention festival in October. A small discussion ensued on the workload for the day with plenty of things to do for all.

Chief Scardino referred back to the discussion on the firefighter contract. He spoke on his reluctance to deny vacation time if the firefighters are contractually given this time. The Chief then addressed attaching policies to correlate with areas of the contract that are needed. This area will be worked on for approval.

Then addressed were the crews in place during the hurricane. The Chief explained that a second crew was enacted to provide coverage for the pending storm. Two duty crews were also put in place for Wildwood weekend thanks to Chief Haines. Board members and the Chief were very pleased in the volunteer's response in joining the duty crew program and felt that this area was holding steady. A suggestion was then made to add company boxes for special responses and tone all runs on the District, during the weekend of Wildwood.

Promotion of Darren Smith (Lt.)- Chief Scardino announced that Darren Smith of Station 7 is being promoted to Lieutenant. Darren has exhibited a good attitude and has 12 years of experience in fire service and is working on many sporting events to unite department memberships. The announcement was reflected in a memorandum sent out to the Department. The board was pleased to hear the news.

Mention was also made of Lt. Mangaro of Station 6's work on a department Dek hockey team.

Battalion Chief Report

No report due to Battalion Chief Rigberg's military leave.

Acting Fire Marshal's Report

Captain Friend had nothing to report.

Commissioner Passarella questioned the status of two new recruits who are in the membership process. Chief Scardino indicated that one recruit needed to have a physical and had not had an opportunity to go the Fire District's physician. The other was believed to be attending an upcoming orientation.

Commissioner Mammucari spoke on a new recruit of Station 3 who has encountered an issue with two other recruits from other stations, while attending Firefighter I training at the Fire Academy. Chief Scardino will look into this matter.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Sirolli entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Pantalone and seconded by Commissioner Gallo. All were in favor.

Prepared by: pj

Reviewed by: VJM

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