

Board of Fire Commissioners

Fire District No. 1
Township of Haddon
120 Haddon Ave., Haddon Township, NJ 08108

November 21, 2019

The Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1, Township of Haddon, held their regular monthly meeting on the above date, in the meeting room of the Westmont Fire Company No.1, 120 Haddon Avenue Westmont, NJ. Chairman Henry E. Voigtsberger, Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

Chairman Voigtsberger called for a salute to the Flag of the United States.

Franklin P. Jackson 5th read the confirmation of the Sunshine Law, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, which requires that adequate notice of this meeting be provided. This has been done through Public Notice in the Retrospect newspaper and by posting on a bulletin board in the Haddon Township Municipal building.

Commissioners answering roll call were: Chairman Henry E. Voigtsberger, Jr., Franklin P. Jackson, 5th, William G. Tessing, III and William G. Tessing, IV and Commissioner Joseph Piscopio.

Guests for the evening: Capt. John Young, Lt. Matt Medes, Ken Horner, Thomas Kettell, Sr., Barbara Valle and Dave Wallace.

Minutes for the October meeting were presented for approval. A motion by Chairman Voigtsberger seconded by William G. Tessing, IV, was passed to accept the minutes as presented.

Committee Reports

Pagers: Captain Young reported that a Minitor VI pager was damaged beyond repair.

Radios: No Report

Apparatus: Captain Young reported that the New Squirt was sent back to Seagrave in Wisconsin for upgrades. He further reported that Seagrave would be sending a loaner engine to Westmont to have during the time that the new squirt is being upgraded.

Fire School: Mike Taulane and Dan Palmadessa are continuing in Firefighter 1 at the Camden County Fire Academy and will graduate in early December.

Turn-out Gear: Gear cleaning and inspection is in progress.

Equipment: No Report

Insurance: Frank Jackson reported that Sarah McCall had an injury to her hand. She was treated at Concentra Outpatient and returned to work with minimal loss of time. Workers Comp was notified.

Liaison to Township: No Report

Communications: None Received

Benefit of Fire District: Commissioner Piscopio discussed the following topics:

VFIS Insurance policy beneficiary changes ◦An announcement was posted with the form attached on November 20, 2019. Members are requested to complete the document and return it to the Commissioners Office to be retained in the member files.

Driver's License Abstracts ◦Proforma Screening: Offers the service at \$5.00 per order
State of New Jersey: Offers the service at \$15.00 per order

All documentation points to the employer who own the vehicles to be utilized (HTBOFC1) as the organization responsible for verifying drivers licenses

Fire District 3 Updates ◦Commissioners Shelly Lluz and Matt Takach have about 45 days left in their residency and are looking for a clean hand-off before they leave

◦Commissioner Ed Kalesse had a stroke and will be out of commission for a while

◦Shelly has spoken to at least two residents of Fire District 3 who are interested

◦He spoke to both Mayor Teague and our attorney Craig Gargano in regards to the consolidation of Fire Districts 1 & 3. Mayor Teague said that he hadn't heard anything in some time and all that would be needed for them to get the ball rolling is a letter from both districts stating their intents. Since the commissioners of Fire District 3 are willing participants, it would be easier.

▪ In speaking to Attorney Craig Gargano, he said the state finance board advised against it due to the large difference in the tax rates between the two districts and that we could not have two different rates. They suggested that Fire District 3 slowly increase their tax rate to match Fire District 1 which would make the consolidation much more seamless. He also believes that along with both fire districts passing the resolution, the town did as well.

▪ In looking through the Township meeting minutes from November 2018 through September 2019, no mention was found

•EMS Stipend Program ◦The fire company voted against taking the program over

◦The State of NJ is looking to enact changes the way independent contractors operate with S4202

New Business: A motion by Chairman Voigtsberger seconded by Joe Piscopio was passed move forward with setting up a meeting with a tax attorney to learn how to structure a new ambulance program.

A motion by Joe Piscopio seconded by Chairman Voigtsberger was passed to have all drivers license abstracts be done through Proforma Screening.

A motion was made by Chairman Voigtsberger seconded by William Tessing, III, was passed to purchase a flat bottom boat and trailer for water rescue.

A motion was made by Chairman Voigtsberger seconded by Joe Piscopio was passed to purchase 5 new water rescue helmets.

Treasurers' Report: Commissioner Tessing, III reported that as of October 31, 2019 the Money Market Account stands at \$181,237.10, the Checking (Payroll) Account stands at \$27,401.69 and the Checking (Operating Account) stands at \$100,820.00. A motion by Chairman Voigtsberger seconded by Bill Tessing, IV was passed to accept the reports as presented.

Bills: A motion was made by Chairman Voigtsberger seconded by William Tessing, IV, was passed to pay the bills at the end of the month as they are received.

Chairman Voigtsberger stated that the next regular meeting will be held on December 19, 2019 at 8 PM in meeting room of the Westmont Fire Company.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM following a motion by Chairman Voigtsberger and seconded by Commissioner Tessing, IV.

Attested

Franklin P Jackson, 5th
Secretary