

Dennis Township Fire District No. 1
Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meeting
Board of Fire Commissioners
April 17, 2014

The regularly scheduled April 2014 meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Dennis Township Fire District No. 1 was opened at 7:01 pm on the above date at Ocean View Fire Hall by Chairman Bryan Moran with the statement that we were in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law); and, that notice of the meeting was posted in Township Hall and had been advertised in the Cape May County Herald.

Roll Call

Present were commissioners Bryan Moran (Chairman), Tammy Tozer (Secretary), Mike Fry (Treasurer), and Paul Sutton. Also present was Financial Advisor Joe Wilshire. There were also thirty-four (34) members of the public in attendance. Absent was Phillip Brown.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the March 2014 regular monthly meeting, prepared by Tammy Tozer, were read. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Chairman Bryan Moran and seconded by Mr. Paul Sutton. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Chief's Report

Chief Michael Deluca read the Fire Company Chief's report for the period of 03/01/2014 – 03/31/2014.

The Fire Company responded to a total of twelve (12) calls for the month. One (1) overpressure rupture, four (4) medical assists, one (1) carbon monoxide alarm, one (1) smoke detector activation, one (1) dispatch & cancel, one (1) arcing electric line, one (1) rescue and two (2) smoke/odor removals; all totaling 4.2 hours in service.

Chief Michael Deluca also announced that he was going to hold an open meeting for all past/former members of the OVFC on April 30, 2014 @ 1900 hours

Treasurer's Report

Financial advisor Joe Wilshire advised the Commissioners of three (3) outstanding bills needing approval for payment.

Bills: JIF Insurance \$4,328.00
Gentilini (Oil Change on Pick-Up 1712)
Fire & Safety \$2,425.50

Mike Fry made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Paul Sutton. The motion was adopted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Wilshire talked about the findings of his TD Bank research. He found an account that will suit the District better and there will be no service charge as long as a \$1,000.00 balance is kept in the checking account at all times. It will save the District \$8.00 a month in service fees.

Mr. Wilshire also brought up the Losap COLI that was talked about at the February meeting. He found a Local Finance Report (LFN 2014-01) that gives the rules and regulations about how to

increase the Losap without red tape. A discussion then took place about only raising the Losap when the District had the available funds to do so. Since the beginning of LoSap in District #1 it has never had a COLI. The maximum accumulative amount to date is \$1652.00. It was decided that in November we will make a motion to raise the CPI in Losap.

New Business

Mr. Wilshire bought up CD Rates and putting the excess funds that are sitting in a savings account accruing very little interest into a CD (12-15-18 Months) at .9% interest. That would give the District \$2500.00 in interest income.

Public Comments

Sandy Izzi of Ocean View stood up and read a letter about her concerns for the safety of District #1 citizens as well as the wellbeing of the Fire Fighters in District #1.

Mrs. Izzi bought up the ignorance and arrogance of the firemen and how the chief should learn to curb them. Mr. Mike Fry spoke up and mentioned that Chief Deluca is a Chief of a Fire Department and he can't be responsible for the actions of 31 men and women whom are grown adults.

Chief Deluca had a heated discussion with Mr. Rock, Mr. Izzi and Mrs. Izzi over the fact that he is trying to move his Fire Company forward and that if they keep on bringing up the past, the fire company is not going to be able to move forward. He noted that he has been chief for 4 months and 16 days and already there is a change in the demeanor of the Fire Company. He is making strides in the right direction and would like the cooperation of the citizens of District #1 to see that he and his fireman have the best intentions for District #1 and the surrounding areas.

Mr. Tom Rock questioned the hand written budget that doesn't even add up to the right numbers. Chairman Moran then let the public know that the Commission has been asked to go to the DCA on April 22, 2014 in regards to the Budget and the practices of District #1. Chairman Moran is unsure of the DCA's intentions for the meeting. There could be penalties imposed, fine imposed or an investigation opened – we will not know until the meeting on April 22, 2014.

Mr. Paul Sutton explained how he plans on handling the budget with the DCA. Mr. Sutton explained his budget that he wrote for OVFC and how it justifies the numbers that have been requested.

Mrs. Izzi asked why District #1 doesn't own the equipment like Dennisville residents own all the equipment at Dennisville Fire Company. She wants to know if the budget can be changed so that District #1 residents own the equipment cause as it stands now she states... "if OVFC walked away we are left with empty trucks with nothing on them." Chairman Moran stated that is one of the questions they are going to ask the DCA.

Judy LaPortia of Ocean View came to the meeting to commend the OVFC for assisting in a Medical situation that she was in that was very stressful and the firemen were able to bring her stress level down and she was thankful for that, but after hearing that the District was asked to go to the DCA she is very concerned for the wellbeing of the District. She said she has dealt with the DCA before and when they open an investigation it is not a good thing.

Mr. Robert Clayton of Ocean View stood and questioned the article in the Cape May County Herald in regards to the Fire on Route 550 and Mr. Rock making the claim that it took 25 minutes for the OVFC to arrive at the scene. He asked Mr. Rock what he did to try to stop the Fire, in which Mr. Rock answered "I grabbed the garden hose and tried to turn it on, but it was January and there was no water...I don't have

the big trucks, axes and equipment. There has been plenty of times in my youth when I ran into buildings I shouldn't have...So that is what I did!" (Not Quoted EXACT)

Mr. Clayton then questioned the Special Meeting Minutes from July 2nd, 2013, he questions why the entire minutes were not posted directing his question towards Chairman Bryan Moran. Secretary Tammy Tozer spoke up and said that she had posted the minutes and that she had thought the July 2nd Minutes were posted from the Public Meeting and that all I needed to release was the Executive Meeting Minutes. Mrs. Tozer did not realize that the July 2nd Minutes were not posted at all on the website. She let Mr. Clayton know that she would fix the problem and apologized.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM by Chairman Moran, seconded by Mike Fry.

All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Dennis Township Fire District No. 1 shall convene at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 in the Ocean View Fire Company Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Tozer
Secretary
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