

# Dennis Township Fire District No. 1

## Regular monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners January 11, 2014

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Dennis Township Fire District No. 1 was opened at 10:36 a.m. at Township Hall by Chairman Bryan Moran with the statement that we were compliant with the Sunshine Act and notice of the meeting was posted in Town Hall and advertised in the local papers.

**Flag Salute** was performed and roll call was taken.

**Roll Call** – Present were Commissioners Bryan Moran - Chairman, Jon Gansert Sr. – Secretary, Mike Fry – Treasurer, Philip Brown, and Robert Grundlock. Also present were Solicitor James Pickering, Financial Advisor Joe Wilshire, Special Council Richard Braslow, and Howard Izzes (retired State DCA and currently a financial consultant for the State).

**Secretary's Report** - Minutes of the November meeting were read by Commissioner Gansert, and a motion to accept the minutes was made by Commissioner Fry and seconded by Commissioner Brown with all in favor. A correction on the November Report was made in reference to the payment for Mr. Wilshire which was incorrect.

**Treasurer's Report** – Financial advisor Joe Wilshire advised that 4 bills were presented for payment with 3 of them being from the Herald for advertisements, and 1 for the OVVFC. Mr. Wilshire questioned whether the Fire Company was going to be paid the monthly amount or the Quarterly amount since the contract has been signed. After reading the new contract, it was then decide that the last quarterly payment be made.

OVVF	\$41,000.00	End of December 2013 and beginning of January 2014 payment.
Herald	<u>174.21</u>	Advertisements (3 bills)
Totaling	\$41,174.21	

Mr. Wilshire then discussed the budgetary issues. Chairman Moran made a motion to pay the bills with the stipulation that the Fire Company produce vouchers for purchases before their payment will be made. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and all were in favor.

**Chief's Report** – The Chief's report for 12/1/13 to 12/31/13 was then read by Chairman Moran which included 6 rescue calls, 1 medical assist, 4 cover assignments, 1 alarm call, 1 service call, and steam from a house call, which totaled 14 incidents. Also attached were the Fire Member call percentages, with average attendances of 14.29%. The Fire Company lists 33 current members and state that they have more coming.

**Old Business** – Mr. Wilshire advised that he contacted the State and spoke with Melissa Ford in reference to the proposed budget that was sent to them and that he had not received a response. He advised that the proper paperwork from the last election had not been sent to them and they were not aware of the new contract, but we could still adopt the budget. Discussions then continued on the budget. Mr. Wilshire gave Commissioner Gansert an email he received from the State stating that the budget was approved. A copy of the email will be attached to the minutes.

**New Business** – Commissioner Gansert advised that we received 2 applications for Fire Commissioner for the upcoming election. Petitions were from Commissioner Grundlock and Mr. Paul Sutton from Cheshire Drive. Chairman Moran explained that there are 2 positions that are available for the Commission. All petitions would need to be in by Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of January.

1732 had mechanical issues with the ladder and gauges on the pump panel were broken. The Fire Company is also asking to replace the tanker truck 1744 which is failing. A question was asked about amending the budget in order to replace the tanker. Mr. Braslow then explained the steps needed to be taken. Discussions on this then took place. A recommendation to place the question on the ballot was made by Mr. Pickering. Discussions then continued on replacing Fire Trucks and the 20 year plan.

Mr. Sutton asked what the final reserve amount was for 2013 which is \$112,251.34. A discussion on the reserve account continued with Mr. Wilshire and Mr. Sutton.

A motion was then made to place a question on the ballot to seek voter approval to use reserve money not to exceed \$450,000 to purchase a fire truck. Motion was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Grundlock. All were in favor.

Commissioner Fry then brought up about paying the LOSAP bill early which all were in favor of. LOSAP bill will also be paid with the other 2 bills.

Mrs. Izzi then asked how LOSAP works and was advised by Commissioner Fry.

Mr. Howard Izzes, retired from the DCA was introduced to the public to speak about public funds and accountability of those funds.

Mrs. Izzi then asked about the Fire Company using public funds to pay their mortgage. Discussion then continued on use of public funds.

Commissioner Fry then requested to take the \$71,000.00 from the reserve and place it back into the saving account to be used to purchase equipment. Discussions then continued on using the money to purchase equipment as well as 2014 negotiations with the Fire Company as to purchases of needed equipment. Extended discussions on amending the 2014 budget for purchasing equipment then took place.

At 12:36 Hours Mr. Pickering left the meeting to attend to family issues.

Mrs. Izzi then brought up the Fire Company's accountability with the money that they are given that is raised by the taxpayers. A large discussion then started.

Commissioner Gansert then summed up the accountability issue explaining that the Commission is accountable for the money that is given to the Fire Company and that the Fire Company is going to have to be accountable for their purchases.

Commissioner Fry then made a motion for a resolution to authorize the purchase of a Fire Truck and Equipment not to exceed \$500,000.00. This was seconded by Commissioner Brown and all were in favor.

Commissioner Fry then made a motion to adopt the proposed 2014 Budget and Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Public Questions on the Budget** – Mrs. Izzi asked for clarification on deducting money from the fire budget for purchasing equipment which Chairman Moran explained.

Mr. Sutton asked what the amount of money was being raised from the taxpayers, which is \$365,000.00.

Mr. Tozer asked about the questions that were going to be on the ballot, which was explained by Mr. Braslow.

Mr. Clayton then asked about the expiring Commissioners terms for the election. There are 2 commission positions open, one for a 3 year term and one for a 1 year term.

With no other questions, Commissioner Fry made a motion to close the budget hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner Brown. All were in favor and hearing was closed.

Commissioner Fry then made a motion to adopt the 2014 budget and was seconded by Commissioner Grundlock. All were in favor.

A motion was then made by Commissioner Fry to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Brown. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon P. Gansert Sr.  
Secretary