

**Dennis Township Fire District No. 1**  
**Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meeting**  
**Board of Fire Commissioners**  
**May 21, 2014**

The regularly scheduled May 2014 meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Dennis Township Fire District No. 1 was opened at 7:02 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.

Opening Statement made by Mr. Bryan Moran (Chairman)

**Roll Call**

Present were commissioners Bryan Moran (Chairman), Tammy Tozer (Secretary), Paul Sutton (Treasurer), Mike Fry, and Phil Brown.

**Secretary's Report**

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

**Chief's Report**

Chief Michael Deluca read the Fire Company Chief's report for the period of 04/01/2014 – 04/30/2014. The Fire Company responded to a total of thirteen (13) calls for the month. Four (4) Structure Fires, two (2) medical assists, one (1) good intent, two (2) motor vehicle accidents, one (1) dumpster fire, one (1) false alarm, one (1) brush fire, one (1) outside rubbish; all totaling 13.8 hours in service.

**Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Paul Sutton had no Treasurer's Report as Mr. Joe Wilshire just came into the meeting at the beginning and dropped off a box of financial things of the Districts. What the box contained was unknown at the time of the meeting. Mr. Sutton said he will have a financial report available for the June Meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Sutton spoke of the Meeting with DCA on April 22, 2014 in Trenton.

The Fire District has been skirting the laws for a long time and it is time that it stops. For years Mr. Wilshire set up the budget to make sure that the items were there that the Fire Company needed and what gave the Commissioners the least control. Mr. Wilshire refused to add lines to the 2014 budget – He literally made the Fire District budget “just” legal. Mr. Sutton explained that the Fire Commission is just asking the Fire Company to be accountable for the taxpayers monies that they are spending. Show the tax payers what you are spending the money on. Something that the Fire Company has not had to do for the last twenty-some years.

Mr. Sutton explained that he is going to do the 2014 Fire District Budget and add the line items that have been neglected to be added in the last year. The Fire District will purchase and own all equipment and apparatus starting in 2014. Mr. Sutton explained that technically the Taxpayers of District #1 already own everything purchased by OVFC because they used tax payers monies to purchase the equipment.

Mr. Sutton also spoke about the Losap COLA – He was able to obtain the original document submitted by the OVFD when Losap was implemented. The Commission is permitted to increase the Losap annually by 1.85% - so for January 2015 we can increase Losap by \$20.70.

Mr. Sutton stated that the DCA had made it very clear that we needed to adhere to their verbal recommendations to make sure that an investigation was not opened.

## **New Business**

Mr. John Berg of the OVFC asked how the Public Contract Law applies to the FC because they are Contracted by the Fire District to provide Fire Service. How can the DCA dictate how the Fire Company spends the funds that are given to them by the Fire District. Mr. Suttons response was “because we are asking that the Fire Company be accountable for their spending of tax payers money in the contract.”

Mrs. Pam Zaborowski of Ocean View, NJ then spoke up and said that she has experience with the Public Contract Law and they the Fire Company does have to adhere to it because they are spending Tax Payers money. The Contract was mentioned and the Fire Company asked to have a Special Meeting to talk about the Contract. The Commission told the Fire Company that we would hold an OPEN PUBLIC MEETING for them to ask Questions and get Answers but that there would be no negotiating the contract. It is what it is and that the Commissioners will not willing to make changes to it as it is what the DCA asked for.

The Fire Company raised questions that we added wording to the contract like – 30 Square Feet of Office Space, Access to the Fire Trucks at all times and questions about the Budget that was prepared by Mr. Sutton for the Fire Company. An Informational Meeting was scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at the Ocean View Fire Hall.

Mrs. Sandra Izzi spoke of the Informational Meeting that Chief DeLuca was to have on April 28. She said what a disgusting act that turned to be. “A Meeting that was meant to bring members back to the Fire Company and you allow a member to tell them that (“We really don’t want you back”) – How ignorant and disgusting!”

Mr. Tom Rock showed pictures of the Sea Isle City Fire in which a Higher Up Fire Member was operating a Pump Truck in the middle of houses on fire without proper PPE’s on! “This is our tax payers money paying for insurance for these guys and they aren’t even wearing proper gear in the middle of a massive fire...what is that showing the younger guys coming into this fire company?” (not an exact quote.)

Mr. Bryan Moran read a letter that the Commissioners of District #1 wrote to Chief Deluca in light of the recent suspensions of Mr. Bob Clayton and Mr. Joseph Grudgiel. Chief Deluca handed out a 30 Day Suspension to Mr. Bob Clayton and a 45 Day Suspension to Joe Grudgiel for the recent revelation of there had been drinking in a Fire District Fire Truck during the Candy Cane Drop of 2012. The Commission did not think that was strict enough so we have expelled those two Fireman from the District Insurance and have suspended them from all Firematics of District #1. Pam Zaborowski stated that so much of our money was already spent so why does the Commission not wish to take this matter to Court and cease all properties of the OVFC seeing as they have used tax payers money to obtain and maintain the buildings. It is ashamed that we need to do this because we keep on bringing up moving forward but it seems that the Fire Company doesn’t want to move forward. They want to keep everything right where it is. Chief Deluca needs to step forward and take control of the negative and unethical way this fire company has been going...he is a new chief and with that comes great responsibility. Kids are supposed to look up to Fireman...They are supposed to be leaders in our community – So show the kids what is right and have a PROUD OVFC. Clearing up the past is important to move forward...There was so much hurt and dishonesty in the past that we cannot just cover that all up. It needs to be brought out...worked on and ironed out. (not exactly as stated).

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM by Mr. Paul Sutton, seconded by Tammy Tozer. All were in favor.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Dennis Township Fire District No. 1 shall convene at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 in the Ocean View Fire Company Hall. A Special Informational Meeting was scheduled for May 29, 2014 at 7:00 in the Ocean View Fire Company Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Tozer  
Secretary  
:TT