

**TOWNSHIP OF MONROE**  
**Board of Fire Commissioners**  
**Fire District No. 2**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 11, 2019**

The Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 met at the Monroe Township Fire District #2 & EMS building, 10 Halsey Reed Road, Monroe Township, New Jersey for the Regular Meeting.

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order with a Salute to the Flag at 7:00 pm. Chairman Martin asked for a moment of silence for all firefighters, EMS, police and military, who have died in the performance of their duties, especially all those who lost their lives on 9/11. Also Firefighter Michael Haub, whose remains were from 9/11 were found; and firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty - Ed Lenon (MI), Brian Sullivan (Bronx, NY), James Sommers (FL).

**UPON ROLL CALL** made by Chairman Martin, the following members of the Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No.2 were present: Glenn Borsuk, Jason Martin, Robert McGee, Michael Frisch and Alan Tannenbaum.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Attorney Rich Shaklee, Esquire and Val Cier, Recording Secretary.

There was one career firefighter present: Chief Carbin

There were two members of the public present: J. Haff, N. Osborn

Chairman Martin announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, having been published in the newspaper, posted on the bulletin board of the Office of the Township Clerk, and District 2 website @ [www.station57.org](http://www.station57.org), and notices sent to those requesting such.

## **MINUTES**

Chairman Martin asked for a review of the August 14, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Borsuk and Attorney Shaklee had corrections.

**UPON MOTION MADE** by Jason Martin and seconded by Glenn Borsuk, to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of August 14, 2019 as amended.

**ROLL CALL:** Aye Borsuk  
Aye Frisch  
Aye Martin  
Aye McGee  
Aye Tannenbaum

## **CLAIMS AGAINST THE BOARD & TREASURERS REPORT**

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Chairman Martin asked the board to review the claims against the board and for the treasurer's report.

Chairman Frisch read the report:

General Operating Claims Total	\$144,724.85
Net Payroll Claims Total	\$102,675.43
Total Claims Against the Board	\$247,400.28

Period ending September 11, 2019

M&T Bank:

Undesignated Funds

M&T Bank	\$175,099.36
Amboy	\$1,972,018.48
Petty Cash	\$370.00

Designated Funds

M&T Bank	\$198,789.33
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Total Funds \$2,346,277.17

Note – Received 3Q payment of \$1,113,977.00 from the township.

Chairman Martin will ask Board Accountant about making 941 payments monthly instead of quarterly.

**UPON MOTION MADE** by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Bob McGee, claims against the Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 were approved in the amount of \$247,400.28.

**ROLL CALL:** Aye Borsuk  
Aye Frisch  
Aye Martin  
Aye McGee  
Aye Tannenbaum

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Chairman Martin read a letter from Monroe Special Sports thanking the fire department for attending.

**FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU REPORT**

Chairman Martin asked for a report from Fire Prevention.

Chief Carbin reported:

- Hours accumulation
  - EMT Refresher will take place in December
  - Fire Prevention Deposit
  - Inspections for the month and for the year
  - Fire Prevention Totals
  - Incident run log
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- Promotional exam is scheduled for May 2nd
  - October 6th is the Open House from 11am - 2pm
  - Gear measurements are done. Added a pocket to the outside for a rope
  - NJ State Firemen's Convention is this week/weekend. Chief will be looking at conversions while there.

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- Vehicle customization bid still not be compliant bid bond and consent of surety missing.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Chairman Martin asked Commissioner Haff for an update on the Election.

Commissioner Haff from District 3, met with Township Clerk, Pat Reed, to change the FD election date from February to November. We have to align the FD districts with the voting districts. District 1 may have some impact, and Commissioner Dipiero is aware of, and agreeable with what Districts 2 & 3 are doing to change their voting date. The entire process will take a very long time. The township will not split the ward among the fire districts.

## **APPLEGARTH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**

Commissioner Borsuk mentioned the one firefighter is enrolled for Firefighter 1 this fall at Monmouth Fire Academy.

## **MEETING OPENED TO THE BOARD**

Commissioner McGee stated he and Commissioner Frisch met with volunteers about how to improve making calls, and listened to their concerns:

- Volunteers had concerns about not being notified for drills, although there are emails that go out, and that the drills are during the day and they need them at night.
- Problem with communication with volunteers and on duty Lt, so they are aware there are volunteers available.
- Volunteers are not getting radio acknowledgement when they call in service from the on duty Lt. and cancellations.
- Commissioner Tannenbaum asked if the volunteers talked about responding to the calls. Commissioner Borsuk stated volunteers will respond when they are available.
- Commissioner McGee suggested the volunteers can sign into "i am responding" so the Lt can see who is available.
- Career firefighters had a concern that volunteers can't reset the alarm.

Commissioner Frisch was concerned about the attitude/tone during the meeting, non-responders being more vocal at the meeting, and the lack of communication within the department.

Chief stated coverage depends on the size of the fire if the volunteers are called or covered. Incident commanders make the decision on who in area are called and cancelled. Volunteers are to cover the district if the career firefighters are called out of town. Not necessarily out of district.

Commissioner Frisch stated that if there is a fire, the concern is we don't have enough coverage.

Commissioner Borsuk stated we need more volunteer members. Chairman Martin shared when

District 3 had a Chief that told volunteers when they had to be available and because of that, they lost volunteers and had to go full career.

Commissioner McGee offered to have the volunteers attend this meeting, or come to this firehouse to build relationships. Commissioner Frisch questioned what the future of the volunteer organization at that firehouse. Commissioner Borsuk could not speak to future. Getting new members from the demographic area is a challenge, there is a lack of people to step up to a leadership position due to

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the state requirements they need to meet, and a need to build confidence with experience.

Commissioner McGee suggested having the volunteers sit at the career house and possibly go on calls. Commissioner Frisch told the volunteers how much money is spent to run a fire company to be viable, and sometimes it isn't viable. There is a need for communication and training.

Commissioner Borsuk stated the volunteers are a very small piece of the budget and it shouldn't be a deciding factor since it's only 1% of the budget.

Commissioner Borsuk stated there is a learning curve, and being a volunteer is a different culture. Commissioner Frisch feels they should be told they have to do it (respond). Chairman Martin stated the enforcement is on the volunteer side. Commissioner Tannenbaum stated to make it mandatory to come to the firehouse. Commissioner Borsuk asked what if they don't? He personally will not go to a call from 11pm-5am unless it's a fire or rescue. If we tell volunteers they have to be at every call, they won't come and we'll lose them.

Commissioner McGee stated Station 51 is all volunteers after paid shift. Chief Carbin mentioned that they have 40 qualified volunteers and maybe 15 more active to get a crew of 3-4 out.

Commissioner McGee asked what can we bring to the volunteers for their next meeting.

Commissioner Borsuk stated to mention what was discussed tonight, the "I am responding" and to respond out of this firehouse.

Commissioner McGee did ask the volunteers to come to tonight's meeting and come up with some solutions. The board can suggest the others, and 1 day per week spend 4 hours here.

Chief Carbin would like to schedule that with paid and volunteer staff, and include Hank. He would like someone from the volunteers that has worked with career, to be with them, which is Hank.

Commissioner Borsuk stated it's hard to come up with repercussions for not coming, because it's difficult to find and keep volunteers today.

Chairman Martin recognized the need to discuss the future of our partnership. Commissioner Borsuk would prefer Commissioners McGee and Frisch not attend the next volunteer meeting, and Commissioner Borsuk will not attend.

## **MEETING RE-OPEN TO BOARD**

Attorney Shaklee stated the board needed a motion to rebid the vehicle customization.

**UPON MOTION MADE** by Jason Martin and seconded by Glenn Borsuk, a motion was made to authorize a rebid of the vehicle customization due to the non-compliance of the previous bid.

**ROLL CALL:** Aye Borsuk  
Aye Frisch  
Aye Martin  
Aye Tannenbaum

Commissioner McGee had stepped out.

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**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Chairman Martin opened the meeting to the public. The public had no comments..

**CLOSED SESSION**

Chairman Martin stated there was no need to have an executive session.

**ADJOURN**

Chairman Martin asked for a motion to adjourn.

**UPON MOTION MADE** by Jason Martin and seconded by Michael Frisch, the meeting was adjourned.

**ROLL CALL:** Aye Borsuk  
Aye Frisch  
Aye Martin  
Aye McGee  
Aye Tannenbaum

ROBERT McGEE  
Board Secretary  
JASON MARTIN  
Chairman

**NOTE: Appendixes can be obtained upon request from the Board Secretary.**  
PREPARED BY: Val Cier