

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF FIRE PREVENTION

March 13, 2008

A regular meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Fire Prevention was held at the Franklin Township Municipal Building at 475 DeMott Lane, Somerset on March 13, 2008 from 7:35pm to 8:45 pm. Fire Prevention Director John Hauss called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and reading of the Sunshine Notice.

The Board had a moment of silence for Franklin Township Detective William Furmick.

ATTENDANCE

<u> </u> Teresa Danile	<u> </u> Brian Levin	Township Council
<u> </u> Brian Farrar	<u> </u> Phil Rizzo	Manager/Police Dept.
<u> X</u> John Hauss	<u> X</u> Andrew Berardo	Fire Prevention
<u> X</u> Tim Szymborski	<u> </u> Louie Hajdu-Nemeth	Fire District No. 1
<u> X</u> William Kleiber	<u> </u> Roy Mondì	Fire District No. 2
<u> X</u> Vincent Inzano	<u> </u> Alfred Pinnella	Fire District No. 3
<u> X</u> Patti Shennard	<u> X</u> Dennis Shennard	Fire District No. 4
<u> X</u> Steve Berardo	<u> </u> Keith Silverman	Fire Chief's Association

MINUTES – The February meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with one correction; Dennis Shennard was present at the February meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE – No correspondence

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT – The February activity and FAAR reports were reviewed.

The Board reviewed the Department's activity from the semi-annual report. John Hauss reported activity is similar to previous years, but activity in some areas is slightly down.

John Hauss reported on additional changes to the proposed permit fees; the Finance Oversight Committee requested these changes after review. These changes include permits based on the number of occupants for Houses of Worship, rather than a flat fee for all Houses of Worship.

John Hauss gave a report on the replacement for the Fire Investigation Unit. Fire Prevention will be meeting with a number of vendors in the next few weeks and hoped to have specifications for early May.

John Hauss reported on an issue that was raised at the Chief's meeting regarding fire inspectors not being allowed to respond to fire calls township-wide unless affiliated with a Township fire company. John reported that this is incorrect. John reported when a fire inspector responds to a call they are under the District's insurance policy just like any other volunteer firefighter. There was a concern about Fire District # 4 because we don't have confirmation in writing. John said he is working on it with Norman Luck, but doesn't believe getting it in writing will be a problem because District # 4 has the same insurance company as 1 & 2. In addition, John stated that any calls in District # 4 also involve a District # 2 company. Some Board members raised questions about insurance for the ESU officers.

Andrew Berardo reported on a problem with some FAARs being issued with incorrect information. This was discussed at the Chief's meeting, but Andrew asked the Commissioners to remind the Chiefs because notices were sent to the wrong property because an incorrect address was entered.

TRUST FUND – \$5,149.57 balance – no activity.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT – Chairman Inzano requested District # 2 provide the reasons why they will not participate in the Interlocal Agreement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

County Communications – no action

Trunked Radio System – Bill Kleiber reported the radio installations at Griggstown Fire Company were completed today. As of today all radios have been installed.

Franklin Township Life Insurance – John reported on the review from the Township Risk Manager. The estimated annual cost for the latest proposal is \$66,714. Unfortunately the Township cannot accommodate this increase. Steve Berardo suggested the Township come back with a proposed benefit schedule.

Fire Safety Trailer – John Hauss reported that items had been stolen from the fire safety trailer and a number of Township vehicles, including two Fire Prevention vehicles. John reported that the Police had caught two suspects. They were stealing the items and selling them for scrap. John reported that the trailer and vehicles were being repaired through Township insurance.

NEW BUSINESS –

Discussion on Assembly Bill # A-3610 – Kevin Apuszio's Law. John Hauss reported that while the bill has merit, passage as written would be difficult because of the cost to municipalities. For example the bill calls for health insurance for all volunteers, this would cost Franklin Township \$9 million dollars; the bill states to offset these cost a \$1.00 surcharge will be added to all fire inspections. In the case of Franklin, that would only bring in about \$2,500; the remaining cost would have to be raised through property taxes.

ROUNDTABLE COMMENTARY –

Bill Kleiber reported that District # 2 is raising the life insurance to \$25,000.

Bill reported on the State Association of Fire Districts – bills have again been proposed to change the district elections to the general election. All requests for the 4% waiver have been denied. The State took over finances in Hamilton Township. Some issues with fingerprinting have been raised – more to follow.

Chairman Inzano welcomed Tim Szymborski.

PUBLIC SESSION - In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act the meeting was open for comments from the public. No comments were received and the public session was closed.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 9, 2008
7:30 PM
at Franklin Township Municipal Building
475 DeMott Lane, Somerset

Respectfully submitted,

John Hauss, Director of Fire Prevention