

**Board of Fire Commissioners
GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT 6
Emergency Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Held: December 7, 2016
Meeting Place: Board Office
Meeting Called to Order: 6:38pm
Members of Board Present: **Chairman** – George Brown
Vice Chairman – Richard Annacone
Treasurer – Brian Robinson
Secretary – George Flinn
Commissioner – Steven Funkhouser
Administrative Clerk – Jeanette Cottone

Salute the Flag

The Sunshine Law – George Brown: In accordance with the NJ Sunshine Law this meeting is open to the public. The public portion will follow the regular business of the Board.

Roll call Commissioners: All present.

Comm. Brown: This is an Emergency Meeting. It was not advertised, we will do whatever we need to do legally to catch up with that, posting it in the newspaper, etc. We had an open meeting last Saturday for the approval of two Command Vehicles, and it was turned down by the voters. The question on the ballot was for \$150,000.00. The Chief and all of us have looked at that number and have decided we could get what we need for \$120,000.00. And it wasn't that the \$150,000.00 was what we were going to spend. It was a "not to exceed" number, given all the issues that are involved when you're trying to get bids from multiple vendors at this time of the year. A lot of work was put into estimating what that was going to cost. I would like the public to know that the Command Vehicles cannot be bought down at the local dealership. There are many vendors that go into creating that number. The radios now cost \$7,000 as I understand it. There was no excess in the original estimate, it was just that we did not want to exceed the number that was posted, and there was no intent to spend that much, but we didn't know what it was. Given that, I would like to have a motion that we have a second open meeting on 12/19/16, that's a Monday. I spoke to the Solicitor, and it's totally within the statutes for us to go out to the public again and say "here's what we're doing." We'll do a much better job at talking to everybody about why we need this, and I just wanted the minutes to reflect this for a number of reasons.

- 1) The vehicles that we have are old and they do not meet the Insurance Company's goals for having vehicles after a certain age.
- 2) There are health and safety issues with the current vehicles, in that the gear that is used by the Chief and Deputy Chief which could have carcinogenics on it are stored in the vehicle. The new thinking is that those should be stored in a separate compartment that's ventilated to the exterior. That's what these vehicles will have. It is not the District's intent to ever expose any Firefighter to health and safety issues.
- 3) These vehicles save the District money, because they often get to the scene before a more expensive piece of apparatus gets on the street. I believe, and I think the numbers will show that when the Chief or Deputy Chief gets out 5 or 6 minutes ahead of 3 or 4 pieces of apparatus, often it reduces our expenses.
- 4) Lastly is, why two vehicles? I've heard that, and it's because the Chief is not always here, and it is not in the interest of the public for the Chief or Deputy Chief to come to the Station first to pick up a vehicle. Minutes count as we all know in the fire service...minutes are critical. These vehicles are necessary and critical to the service that we provide the community and we'll explain this to everybody, so hopefully they'll come out and pass this. So I would like a motion to have another open meeting, it's not an election.

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Robinson. Roll call vote, all yes.

Public Portion – George Brown

Comm. Brown: At this time, I'd like to open the meeting to the public. (hearing none)

Adjourn – George Brown

Motion made by Comm. Annacone, seconded by Comm. Robinson to adjourn the meeting at 6:44pm

Roll call vote, all yes.