

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

Meeting Held: January 22, 2015
Meeting Place: Board Office
Meeting Called to Order: 6:30 pm
Members of Board Present: **Chairman** – George Brown
Vice Chairman – Joseph Chew
Treasurer – Richard Annacone
Secretary – George Flinn
Commissioner – Steven Funkhouser
Administrative Clerk – Jeanette Cottone
Solicitor – David Carlamere

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.

Minutes of the previous meeting - Motion to accept the previous month's minutes as they are available to the public upon request.
Motion made by Comm. Annacone, seconded by Comm. Flinn. Roll call vote, all yes.

Correspondence – Jeanette Cottone

Adm.CI.Cottone: Correspondence has been distributed.

Treasurer's Report – Rich Annacone

Audubon General Account	1,209,779.54
Audubon Payroll Account	47,089.71
Expenditures:	134,084.86
TOTAL AMOUNT FOR APPROVAL	134,084.86

Motion made by Comm. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Chew to approve the Treasurer's Report as read.
Roll call vote, all yes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Computer Services – George Brown

No report.

Fire Prevention – George Brown

No report.

Liaison to the District Volunteers – George Brown

Comm. Brown: We received a very nice letter about some help that Ff. Derek Grier and Christopher Brown gave to a stranded resident out in the parking lot while it was raining. The letter made it into the Courier Post if you didn't see it. I think we can put that letter up on the website too.

Adm.CI.Cottone: Do you know what day it was in the Courier? If not I'll look it up.

Comm. Brown: We have it, but the incident happened on December 18th.

Legal Liaison – George Brown

No report.

IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – George Brown

Comm. Brown: We met again this evening, Comm. Annacone, the Chief and myself, and had made a proposal to the President and Vice President of the IAFF to consider our offer and they'll get back to us. Did we say we had a tentative agreement or not.

Comm. Annacone: He said it could be a tentative, get paid back and be ratified.

Comm. Brown: So hopefully next month we can have that approved and get the retro-active right away. That's it for me.

Apparatus – Joe Chew

Comm. Chew: It seems like it was battery eating month this month. The Dep.'s vehicle and 863, probably a result more from our activities at the end of the previous month, and then 866 has been repaired with all the damage. The Chief posted his report, and I'll make a motion to accept his report.

Motion made by Comm. Chew, seconded by Comm. Flinn to accept the Chief's report. Roll call vote, all yes.

Comm. Chew: That's all I have right now.

Budget Co-Commissioner – Joe Chew

No report.

Fire Department Equipment – Joe Chew

No report.

Fire Department Operations – Joe Chew

No report.

Training – Joe Chew

No report.

Budget Co-Commissioner – Rich Annacone

No report.

IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – Rich Annacone

No report.

Personnel / Administration – Rich Annacone

Comm. Brown: I think we have one issue regarding the appointment of the Chief's position.

Adm.Ci.Cottone: Yes, we want to do the Certification from the Civil Service for the Chief. Pretty much we have all the information. The codes, jurisdiction, everything looks correct. We need to have the official appointment date.

Comm. Brown: OK, Resolution to approve the Certification of Eligibles for Appointment.

Motion made by Comm. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Annacone to approve the Certification of Eligibles for Appointment. One point of order if I could, this is your last chance to back out.

Chief Brezee: You promised me a new helmet shield.

Roll call vote, all yes.

Comm. Brown: Congratulations Chief, well deserved. (applause)

For the record, the Solicitor just arrived. It's 6:35 pm.

Adm.Ci.Cottone: Can we go back on this appointment?

Comm. Brown: Sure.

Adm.Ci.Cottone: We need the date that the Board wants to make the official appointment date.

Comm. Flinn: I think we should make it go back to...

Adm.Ci.Cottone: No, it has to be after the 12/23, which is when they certified this list to us.

Comm. Annacone: January 1.

Comm. Brown: Alright, January 1st.

Adm.Ci.Cottone: Do you want to make note of the request for certification for the Firefighter list?

Comm. Brown: It's a request for certification of the Firefighter list.

Comm. Annacone: OK, what do we have to do with this, make a motion?

Personnel / Administration, continued

Comm. Brown: A motion to apply for that list.

Chief Brezee: We just want to see the list.

Motion made by Comm. Annacone, seconded by Comm. Funkhouser to apply for the Firefighter list.
Roll call vote, all yes.

Personnel / Operations – Rich Annacone

No report.

Insurance – George Flinn

No report.

Sign – George Flinn

No report.

Water – George Flinn

No report.

Photographer – George Flinn

No report.

Building Maintenance & Grounds – Steve Funkhouser

Comm. Funkhouser: We're still working on the lights, progress...somewhat.

On the snow blower, we're having a problem with the carburetor, it will be taken care of.

The building is still leaking, it's still raining inside.

Communications – Steve Funkhouser

No report.

EMS / Supplies & Equipment – Steve Funkhouser

Comm. Funkhouser: We're good there.

Turn-Out Gear – Steve Funkhouser

Comm. Funkhouser: Apparently we're all good with turn-out gear for this year.

Uniforms – Steve Funkhouser

Comm. Funkhouser: Progress. That's all I have to report.

Chief – Michael Brezee

Chief Brezee: A report has been issued. There are a couple things I just wanted to add.

The letter of thank you that you mentioned, just to expand on that. The end of the year, beginning of the new year brings me to many Chief's gatherings, meetings and dinners, and we are receiving nothing but compliments especially from the mutual aid Chief's around us. The performance of our firefighters, the job their doing, they especially enjoy listening to Chris on the radio. All around, it's been positive and I'm very happy and very proud of that. During December, the duty crews, these guys did several parades, they did Operation Santa for several nights. They really worked hard through December especially for the Christmas stuff and they did a great job with it and again, I'm very proud of that.

In particular, one member has taken on the position of creating a gym for us, and he's done quite a job with putting this together, getting a lot of stuff donated as well as the volunteers took some of their incentive and put that back into the gym. We are receiving requests from outside of our department, mainly the police department who request to use our gym because it's better than some of what they're being provided. I talked to other departments, and as you know being a member of Lindenwold we have quite a gym over there, and we have that relationship where we allow outside members to come in under a waiver, that they can come in and use our gym. I'd like to put something to the Board over the next week, a waiver to look at and Chris and I would put a policy together on this and maybe consider opening that up to the police officers at least. I think it's a good relationship...

Comm. Annacone: I know you're saying a waiver, but where does the insurance fall?

Chief, continued

Chief Brezee: They have to provide their own. The best waiver that I found, they have to agree to provide their insurance carrier along with that information and sign off that if they have any injury that they will seek their own and not hold us liable.

Comm. Annacone: It sounds good, but...

Sol. Carlamere: If you're dealing with an organization to come in, the organization can provide their insurance endorsement. But dealing with individuals, the waiver probably wouldn't be worth too much.

Chief Brezee: Could we protect ourselves?

Sol. Carlamere: You'd have to make sure your insurance opens it up and provides coverage. If you do, then individuals coming in are OK, if the Board approves it.

Chief Brezee: It's something we can look at, further research.

Comm. Annacone: I got no problem but the insurance.

Comm. Brown: OK, would you want to approve it tentative to the Chief putting together a policy and the insurance issues being worked out rather than delay it another month or two?

Comm. Annacone: Yeah, that's fine.

Comm. Brown: OK, motion to get a waiver policy in place pending insurance details also being worked out.

Sol. Carlamere: There should be some protocol as far as how they get access and...

Chief Brezee: Right, that will be the policy that Chris and I will...

Comm. Annacone: You said we don't need a waiver, because it won't be worth the paper it's written on?

Sol. Carlamere: Yeah, because an individual coming in, your main concern should be...I mean it's good to have it, but I don't think there is any real value to that. As long as your insurance says if it's another fire fighting organization or emergency or police that they'll provide coverage because you're providing it to the emergency community.

Comm. Flinn: It's not going to be a neighbor across the street, it's going to be a police officer or firefighter.

Sol. Carlamere: So if that's the procedure, your insurance might cover it and if it does, you're ok. And I might still say if you can get them to sign a waiver that's great, but it's not going to be worth too much in my opinion.

Comm. Chew: And it will be off duty for them?

Chief Brezee: Yes.

Comm. Chew: That's what I'm worried about.

Comm. Funkhouser: They're aware there are no showers in the building, correct?

Chief Brezee: Yes.

Comm. Annacone: At one point didn't we talk about putting some gun lockers in?

Chief Brezee: Many of the police officers are local to our area, they live in our section of town. This is close on their off duty time. Their kids go to school and if they're off that day, they can shoot in here and get a work out done.

Comm. Annacone: Our guys would go to the gym right after work.

Chief Brezee: There's actually guys in your department who go to Lindenwold's gym.

Comm. Chew: I think it would be a good idea at least to look at some gun lockers just to be sure.

Chief Brezee: I would just put in the policy that I don't want them to bring their guns in.

Comm. Chew: I'm OK with that too.

Comm. Brown: OK, so subject to insurance approval, policy by the Chief, make a motion to develop a waiver for use of the gym by police, fire and EMS or just police and fire.

Chief Brezee: We can open it up to them as well.

Comm. Annacone: Emergency Service Personnel.

Comm. Chew: We're all in it together.

Chief Brezee: Some of our outside fill-ins would be interested too, and they're already in our building under our insurance anyway.

Comm. Brown: So you'll just include them in the policy. OK, then Comm. Chew, would you review the Chief's policy and a motion to put all that in motion?

Motion made by Comm. Chew, seconded by Comm. Annacone. Roll call vote, all yes.

Chief Brezee: The last thing I have is, we've had several truck meetings. Chris, Tom Kenny and myself, we're doing a spec review right now, trying to get the specs set on this new truck. We planned two meetings, we already had three, we're not through the spec yet, so I hope you feel we are being very diligent. Hopefully one more meeting we'll get through the spec, we are then going to take the spec to Comm. Chew who is on our committee, review it with him and then we'll move it to the next step which is meeting with the manufacturer

Chief, continued

and reviewing the spec with them, what we want. That's where we are with that. It's going to be an exciting year. We have new firefighters coming in, new apparatus and we're ready to go, right?

Resolutions – Jeanette Cottone

Adm.Ci.Cottone: First Resolution for 2015 is the resolution regarding the procedures for the adoption of the Fire District budget, which I think we did last month, but this was prior to the adoption. Basically it states that with the Introduction and the Proposed budget that we did our readings and followed all the rules and regulations regarding the budget. We have the public hearing and second reading of the budget that's scheduled for this evening and that we were in compliance.

The second resolution is for the actual adoption of the budget. Basically it states that we didn't have any changes, we didn't have anything in between, that the annual budget presented for adoption reflects total revenues of \$2,252,084 which includes the amount to be raised by taxation \$1,416,450, and total appropriations of \$2,252,084. That's the budget. It's been approved by Trenton and we can now adopt it. Dave do you want to just review that. I think you have the same in here.

Sol.Carlamere: You commented on this one for your procedures. You can open your budget up. You can do this two ways. You can move this resolution that you followed the required procedures set forth by the statute, pass that then open it up for public hearing, close it and adopt your budget then move on to the temporary budget.

Adm.Ci.Cottone: If anybody is interested, there is a copy of the budget here.

Motion made by Comm. Chew, seconded by Comm. Annacone to approve Resolution R-1-15 regarding the procedures for the adoption of the Fire District budget. Roll call vote, all yes.

Comm. Brown: At this time, we'll open the floor to the public for any questions on the budget.
(hearing none)

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Annacone to adopt the 2015 Adopted Budget Resolution. Roll call vote, all yes.

Adm.Ci.Cottone: And you all have to cast a vote on this one. That's it for the Resolutions this evening.

Solicitor – David Carlamere

Sol.Carlamere: The only thing, the auditors this year more so than past, the statute requires that you do your temporary budget beginning the fiscal year until your actual budget is adopted at the election time, so they're going to be looking for forms I provided the Clerk, the form resolution she can use each year. It's a resolution that you adopt a temporary budget. By statute, it's 14% of your appropriations of last year. That's what you operate on until your budget passes by the voters. So you need to do that resolution at this meeting.

Comm. Brown: OK.

Adm.Ci.Cottone: I guess we'll make that R-3-15.

Motion made by Comm. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Funkhouser to approve the resolution of the Board of Fire Commissioner's for the Temporary Budget. Roll call vote, all yes.

Old Business – George Brown

Comm. Brown: Old Business? (hearing none)

New Business – George Brown

Comm. Brown: I have one item and I have started the email campaign with the County for the road out here. Hopefully we'll get that done by the time the new truck arrives next year.

Public Portion – George Brown

Comm. Brown: At this time we'll take comments from the public. Please stand up, state your name and address.

Mr. Kibelstis: Jim Kibelstis, 81 Shelly, Erial. I just wanted to thank the Chief for coming out. I've gotten some feedback from a couple of our residents for his putting up the smoke alarms to help them out. I don't know who's appreciating it more, whether the Chief or the residents because talking to Ray Gorick just recently, he couldn't believe the Chief wanted to move into our development.

Chief Brezee: I told Ray that I will be watching his house for a "For Sale" sign when I hit the age.

Public Portion – George Brown

Mr. Kibelstis: Just to let you know, we reduced our age requirement to 52.

Chief Brezee: Eight more years. Ray's house is something else.

Mr. Kibelstis: He has a very nice place, good view too. Secondly on the upcoming election, have the candidates been finalized?

Comm. Brown: No, they will close tomorrow afternoon at 4:00pm.

Mr. Kibelstis: OK. Another thing, just an FYI, I attended the Township Zoning Board meeting a couple weeks ago, and there was an applicant for the Pius X Retreat House. Are you all aware of that? The area is zoned institutional. What this company is trying to do is use the Retreat House for a 30 day rehab for alcohol and drug abuse, but in addition to that, they want to build apartments, condos and townhomes and call it a sober community in the remainder of that. So that's where they're up to the Zoning Board to see if those buildings meet the institutional requirements. The next meeting for the Zoning Board is the 11th.

Comm. Brown: Would those conditions have to apply to Firefighter's?

Mr. Kibelstis: I don't know.

Chief Brezee: Pius is 5's.

Comm. Flinn: Right across the street from the college.

Comm. Brown: It's good to know anyway.

Mr. Kibelstis: That's what they're trying to do, the rehab section would be 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

Comm. Annacone: Do they pay taxes? That's all I care about.

Mr. Kibelstis: That's a good question because that was brought up, and they are a for-profit, but they're a startup company and have no experience in other areas.

Chief Brezee: Are they going to be renting the land?

Comm. Flinn: No, it's County property.

Chief Brezee: The Diocese of Camden owns the property.

Comm. Flinn: On the left, but where the old CYO was is now County property, and that's where those condo's are going to go.

Sol. Carlamere: I think they're selling it. It's being sold.

Mr. Kibelstis: That was the original, Father Mark had gone up years before and tried to get it a cemetery. So it's up in the air right now. I don't know who owns the property.

Comm. Flinn: Pius is still owned by the Diocese, but the other lot across from the college where they want to put the condos is now County property.

Mr. Kibelstis: Anyway, just an FYI if you hear anything.

Comm. Brown: Thank you very much, because if it wasn't for you Mr. Kibelstis, we would never get a piece of news from the other agencies in this Township.

Closed Session – George Brown

n/a

Adjourn – George Brown

Motion made by Comm. Annacone, seconded by Comm. Chew to adjourn the meeting at 6:52pm.

Roll call vote, all yes.

Comm. Brown: Thank you everyone for coming.