

**Board of Fire Commissioners  
GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT 6  
Re-Organization and Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Held:** March 23, 2017  
**Meeting Place:** Board Office  
**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:32pm  
**Members of Board Present:** **Chairman** – George Brown  
**Vice Chairman** – Richard Annacone  
**Treasurer** – Brian Robinson  
**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.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Fire Commissioners, District No. 6, Township of Gloucester, Camden County, NJ, will hold a special meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 6:30pm. This meeting will take place at the Board office located 1946 Williamstown Rd., Erial, NJ. The Re-organization of the Board positions will be decided along with the schedule of meetings and time for the upcoming year. The regular meeting of the Board will follow the special meeting.

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Annacone to approve. Roll call vote, all yes.

**Adm.Ci.Cottone:** The first thing we're going to do is make any changes to the positions.

**Comm. Brown:** Does anyone want to change their positions?

**Adm.Ci.Cottone:** Make the nomination of George Brown to Chairman?

**All:** Yes.

**Adm.Ci.Cottone:** OK, then George you can name the nomination from there and then we can do just one passing.

**Comm. Brown:** Vice Chairman, Richard Annacone; Treasurer, Brian Robinson; Secretary, George Flinn and Commissioner Steve Funkhouser.

**Adm.Ci.Cottone:** And if you want to make any changes to the duties, you can discuss and let me know then I'll type the new form.

**Comm. Brown:** Does anybody want to change their positions at this time? (hearing none)

Motion made by Comm. Annacone, seconded by Comm. Flinn to approve your appointments. Roll call vote, all yes.

Resolution R-04-17 To set the schedule for the Board meeting dates and times for the year 2017 and initial 2018 at the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 6:30pm.

Resolution R-05-17 To adopt the Cash Management Plan for the fiscal year 2017, and that will be reviewed with Comm. Annacone.

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

Resolution R-06-17 Special Attorney, Howard C. Long, Jr., Esquire

Resolution R-07-17 Attorney for the Board, David F. Carlamere, Esquire

Resolution R-08-17 Accountant for the Board, Richard Allen, CPA

Resolution R-09-17 Auditor, Bowman and Company

Resolution R-10-17 Deposit of Funds, Audubon Savings Bank –

Legal Notices to the Central Record, Courier Post or Philadelphia Inquirer

**Re-Organization - continued**

Resolution R-11-17     Dental Care Provider, Delta Dental of NJ  
Resolution R-12-17     Medical Provider, US Healthworks

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Annacone to approve. Roll call vote, all yes.

**Sol. Carlamere:** I'd like to thank the Board for my re-appointment. I appreciate the opportunity to continue to represent the District.

**Comm. Brown:** Thank you.

Motion made by Comm. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Funkhouser to close the Re-Organization meeting at 6:35pm. Roll call vote, all yes.

**Regular Board Meeting – Comm. Brown**

**Comm. Brown:** Let the record show that we're going into our regular meeting at 6:35pm. 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. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Flinn to accept. Roll call vote, all yes.

**Correspondence – Jeanette Cottone**

n/a

**Treasurer's Report – Rich Annacone**

Audubon General Account	1,828,474.49
Audubon Payroll Account	17,548.40
Expenditures: 03/23/17	803,809.70

TOTAL AMOUNT FOR APPROVAL     803,809.70

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

**Closed Session – George Brown**

**Comm. Brown:** At this time, I'd like to make a motion to go into Closed Session regarding some contractual obligations at 6:38pm.

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

**Open Session – George Brown**

**Comm. Brown:** We are back in Open Session at 6:51pm. Roll call, all present. While we were in Closed Session, we discussed two items involving contracts. First was a salary increase to the District's Accountant who is an employee. He requested it in October, and asked us to give him special consideration this month. I had originally told him that we would take care of all the Administrative contracts at one time, he asked for special consideration. So we're going to give him a 2% increase that's retroactive to January 1, 2015. It's about \$400 to the District. The money is in the budget, both the retroactive and the increase.

Motion made by Comm. Robinson, seconded by Comm. Annacone to approve. Roll call vote, Comms. Annacone, Robinson, Funkhouser and Brown yes. Comm. Flinn no.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Liaison to the District Volunteers – George Brown**

**Comm. Brown:** The Firefighters contract with the District requires that it be renewed by this month. Before we approve, Chief there were questions that we said we would ask you to answer, including

### Liaison to the District Volunteers – continued

what our current turnover is. If we're going to spend some more money, Comm. Funkhouser is concerned about it what that might be, so is Comm. Annacone. How about if I go over what the items are, then you'll be better able to understand what the questions about. So, we agreed to:

- 1) Increase the recruitment and retention budget by 2% starting in 2018. My thought behind that is as we add members we should increase that.
- 2) After a recruiter is approved by the District, he'll be issued one pair of workpants and one long or short sleeve t-shirt made of cotton, appropriate for the season of the year.
- 3) After graduating from Firefighter 1, each Firefighter will receive one Class B uniform made of nomex.
- 4) Additionally, they will receive one job shirt and one winter coat in the appropriate season. We're not going to buy them a winter coat in May.
- 5) The Chief or his designee may request from the District replacement of any personal clothing item one-for-one accidentally damaged during a call. So they'll always have their Class B on, they respond up here, slip outside and tear their pants, we should replace that. The Chief should have the right to approve that and the Board should see that he's either reimbursed or brings in receipts or whatever.
- 6) A Firefighter will earn life membership after completing 15 years of service to District 6, including service to any of the volunteer fire companies who serve District 6. The term of life membership will be addressed in an addendum to be developed in the first year of this agreement. So we don't really have what constitutes a life membership status. Do they get a FOB to the building...there are a whole bunch of things that you may want to do there, and it's come up before. We had life members...I remember asking for a FOB at one period of time, and we had no policy on it. We worked that out with the Chief, and the question came up is how much does life membership cost us for the Firefighter's insurance.

**Comm. Annacone:** The section says 15 years of service with the company or any of the surrounding companies...

**Chief Brezee:** I don't like that.

**Comm. Brown:** ...that serve the District.

**Chief Brezee:** I still don't like that.

**Comm. Brown:** Are you going to take somebody that's been here through all the Fire Companies and not make him a life member?

**Chief Brezee:** No, I think because of what went down that we can handle that on that case basis. But the way I'm reading that is, a guy does 14 years over there then comes here and does a year...

**Comm. Brown:** I'll reread it again: A Firefighter will earn life membership after completing 15 years of service to District 6. How he earns that service would be any Fire Company that served this District. So he has to be here continually. So if he left here and went to District 5, he's not included or District 4, 3 or 2 or Winslow. I just don't want to see the people that have stuck through the thick and thin...

**Chief Brezee:** I agree with what you're saying, I don't think that's the way I see this. It may be we got something we got to put in there...including service of any volunteer Fire Company assigned to Station 86 because of that special time or whatever. But the way I read that it says District 6 including any other volunteer Fire Company who served District 6. Well, that's Pine Hill.

**Comm. Brown:** No, that's not a Fire Company that served District 6. That's a mutual aid company.

**Comm. Annacone:** Well who else served District 6 then?

**Comm. Brown:** What I'm trying to say is, if you go back, the history here is starting off with Erial Fire Company...they left. We then had Lambs service for a while. Some of the members that were part of Lambs stayed when we broke away from Lambs and started District 6. So it's all about...we're not saying what company they were with, it's whether or not they were assigned to this District.

**Sol.Carlamere:** Why don't we put in the words Assigned Service District 6?

**Chief Brezee:** Yeah.

**Comm. Brown:** Fine.

**Sol.Carlamere:** It says "completing service to any other volunteer fire company (instead of companies) assigned to service District 6."

**Comm. Brown:** That's fine.

**Comm. Annacone:** I had no problem with what you're saying, I just don't like the way it's worded.

**Comm. Brown:** That's why we have a lawyer.

**Chief Brezee:** There are no more than 10 of these, and we know who they are. We could name them out and be done with that.

**Comm. Brown:** Well if that's what you want to do. The problem with this is, I have to get this done in very short notice. The Chairman of the committee is away, the volunteers....alright, so we'll put the names of the people.

### Liaison to the District Volunteers – continued

**Chief Brezee:** Let's put them in, we know who they are, we don't want anybody else trying to slide into this at some other point if some of us aren't here....

**Comm. Brown:** I'm OK with that, seriously I'm all for clarity. I think it makes it better.

**Dep. Chief Brown:** So then I would maybe recommend the wording to be the original signature date of the last contract of the volunteers. It would be 15 years from that date with the exception of those 10 individuals...

**Comm. Annacone:** Who will be grandfathered in.

**Comm. Brown:** I'm OK with that. So we'll have to get those names and have to get the language discussed. So the question that came up Chief, was the cost of the Firefighter's relief fund.

**Chief Brezee:** Other than paying for the physical for their initial entry, there is no cost to the District.

**Comm. Brown:** OK. So we're going to add that too, because that was really what we discussed. I just missed it in my notes.

**Comm. Annacone:** The original question was, when we send somebody to the Academy and come back. How long...do you have guys that leave after 2 months, or guys go to the Academy that say you know what, I don't want to be here anymore, it wasn't for me. Do you have any kind of an issue with that where a guy might be here 3-4 months and...

**Chief Brezee:** It happens all the time.

**Comm. Annacone:** That's my problem buying uniforms.

**Chief Brezee:** That's why we talked about buying the cheaper cotton uniform...

**Comm. Annacone:** This says Nomex.

**Chief Brezee:** That's after 1 year and completion of....

**Comm. Annacone:** After completing the Academy.

**Chief Brezee:** He's graduating Firefighter 1...each Firefighter will receive one Class B uniform. The fact is, usually if they make it through Firefighter 1, we at least get a year out of them.

**Comm. Annacone:** OK, that was my question.

**Comm. Brown:** And some of us they won't let leave.

**Chief Brezee:** So I don't understand what about 6.

**Comm. Flinn:** So you have to change that to physical.

**Comm. Brown:** I didn't know what the cost was. I thought there was a monthly cost for the Fireman's Relief Fund.

**Chief Brezee:** No, the State pays for that. And it doesn't really address it, but it shouldn't say when they first come in, because sometimes we'll get people who.....it can't get based on Fire 1 or anything like that. We'll get guys join already have Firefighter 1, but they were never placed in the relief association. Here's the problem I have right now, just like most of these guys that are going to be on this list or working towards the Life Membership, they were never enrolled in the relief association when they were a member of the other organization. I now have to get them enrolled which means we have to pay for a physical for them.

**Comm. Annacone:** OK, so a new person has to get a physical.

**Chief Brezee:** A new person comes in, they get a physical, I send the paperwork...

**Comm. Annacone:** They have 2 physicals, one for us and one for the relief association.

**Chief Brezee:** Me and Jan keep working on it with our provider, and there has been a mistake here and there once or twice, but the relief association in the State is a billion dollar industry, and they're very particular about their forms, and we have to make sure that our vendors filling out those forms properly as well as sending them back to us. And we worked on that and getting that line a little better. There was one already done and they didn't want to clear him right away so they shipped him on to another doctor. And somewhere in that, his stuff got lost. So now we can't find this anywhere, nobody knows where it is, his relief association paperwork and I've got to start over with him again. And it's a shame for him because he's losing time. It's a big shame for these guys who have lost 5, 6, 7 years...they'd be exempt already. After so many years you become exempt...

**Comm. Annacone:** We can't do anything about that.

**Chief Brezee:** We cannot ignore it and say look, if you want to get in, let's get you in now, let's not waste any time and do it.

**Comm. Annacone:** No argument with that.

**Comm. Brown:** OK, so do we need a separate policy on the Fireman's Relief Fund?

**Chief Brezee:** I think we probably should have a policy.

**Comm. Brown:** It's just another one of those things that slips through the cracks.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** Chief, new members when they come in, they get a physical right away then put into the Relief Association prior to any schooling?

### Liaison to the District Volunteers – continued

**Chief Brezee:** Yep...they go right into the Relief Association. If they leave...every year I get green sheets from the State, I have to fill them out and show them who's active and who's not. If that time comes and they're not here anymore, I say remove them from our Relief Association.

**Comm. Brown:** OK. And what do they get besides the life insurance policy? We give them a life insurance policy; the relief association provides them other things?

**Chief Brezee:** There is definitely a death benefit which is quite nice, and the nice thing is, there is no red tape. If you're exempt and have a number and an undertaker confirms that you are in fact dead, that check is cut and given to your next of kin loved one. Then they have, if you've fallen on hard times and out of work, you lost your job and you're on unemployment and not making your bills, you can get a one-time a little over \$3,000 payment to help get you through. And that's every year. The third thing that just started is for members that are receiving an in-home health aid type set up, that they are starting to pay towards it, giving you so many thousands of dollars towards that home health aide, trying to help cover what insurances aren't right now.

**Comm. Brown:** OK, so we'll get a policy drafted on that and can set a date for three months from now.

**Chief Brezee:** I've spent the last year with the Gloucester Township Relief Association asking a lot of questions and I finally feel comfortable when I'm in there now that I know how things work. Our biggest problem is most of our members are not members because they were never put in, and it's sad. They could have been exempt by now.

Motion made by Comm. Robinson, seconded by Comm. Annacone, to approve the changes that we just discussed and we can have a re-reading at the next meeting just to make sure everything was picked up, that I didn't miss anything when I communicated to the Solicitor. Roll call vote, all yes.

**Comm. Brown:** New members tonight, Chris Brown?

**Dep.Chief Brown:** I have two folks to present to the District. One of which is here tonight so I'll get to him first. This is Matthew Cancel. He is a resident of Gloucester Township. He already comes to us with his EMT Certification. He does not have a Fire 1 Certification, so he will be coming to us as a probationary firefighter. He also has family that's in the fire service, in the Philadelphia Fire Department, and he intends to complete his probation and enter the Fire Academy through us. I've almost completed the paperwork, the last step was to bring him through the Board. Everything is in order, his physical is done and he's already through learning the apparatus and is attending the training, and I recommend him for approval by the District.

**Comm. Brown:** Welcome Matt on behalf of the Board.

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

**Dep.Chief Brown:** The second individual was unable to be here tonight. He's been floating around the building a little bit and is also all the way through his application process. All the paperwork is in order. He's actually not a resident of the town, not even the County. He lives over in Williamstown. He's 74 years old, has decades of fire experience. He's not coming to us to be a firefighter. He approached a number of fire companies. He's originally from Maryland and he approached a number of the area fire companies looking for something he can do to stay involved in the fire service. No one was able to provide him with anything. Our individuals here who do the initial contact basically got his resume together from him. He has a number of letters of recommendation. Most of his background recently is in Fire Prevention and Administrative functions within fire companies. He's involved in the County Firefighter's Association down in Maryland. He's both a past in fire and EMS and is well rounded and understands what we're doing. It's not like we're just taking somebody off the street that's not involved or ever been involved in service. One of the things that he's very well versed in, and probably as much as anybody else here, and maybe in certain areas more, is Firehouse software which is the recording system that we use. One of the things we kind of put our heads together and figured that we could use him to help us with is in doing a lot of our duty crew training and activity reports so we could provide better statistical reference for both the District, the Officer's and members. He was definitely interested in that and wants to help and be a part in any way that he can. We'd like to kind of bring him on in that capacity. Not as a firefighter, but basically as an associate type member with the Administrative functions of the Officer staff and other non-firefighter related duties.

**Adm.Ci.Cottone:** And his name Chris?

**Dep.Chief Brown:** Is Joseph Fisona.

**Comm. Brown:** I'll have to check the contract to make sure that there is nothing that would exclude him. I don't think there is off the top of my head.

### Liaison to the District Volunteers – continued

**Comm. Annacone:** Do we have any kind of Associate Membership?

**Chief Brezee:** We don't currently have anything like that.

**Comm. Annacone:** I got no problem making one for him...

**Chief Brezee:** Absolutely.

**Comm. Annacone:** But I don't know if you can bring him in under firefighter.

**Dep.Chief Brown:** To my knowledge the contract does not define that. However, I also know the District has already approved having a photographer, who also is not a firefighter, who might be as you recommending maybe for us to put something in writing to clarify that. Whether it would have to be in the contract or just part of an S.O.G.

**Comm. Annacone:** The insurance issues if you bring on a firefighter at 74 years old, but....

**Adm.Ci.Cottone:** Also, if we have someone helping him working, we have to look at the insurance end of that, if they get hurt.

**Comm. Brown:** I'd like to see us not have any differential other than probably in the job description. It just makes it easier to do that anyway.

**Comm. Flinn:** We insure numbers, not names anyway. We don't insure names, we insure numbers. We do have names, but technically insure only numbers.

**Comm. Brown:** That's not true for workers comp I don't believe. Workers comp is based on...you get an annual audit on workers comp.

**Adm.Ci.Cottone:** Right, you have to give them the total.

**Comm. Brown:** So anyway, I say we recommend to approve him...just the thought of having somebody around here that could call me kid.

**Comm. Annacone:** I'm assuming he's in decent shape for a 74 year old.

**Dep.Chief Brown:** Very much so.

Motion made by Comm. Robinson, seconded by Comm. Annacone to approve. Roll call vote, all yes.

### Budget Co-Commissioner – George Brown

No report.

### Computer Services – George Brown

No report.

### Fire Prevention – George Brown

**Comm. Brown:** We have a meeting with the Manager that trained at Lowes again, this is number 4. I met him the other day. He said he was told that the one thing he has to do to be successful in this store is to work with this Fire Department. It's a great statement with what everybody's done around here at Lowes. It's really excellent.

### IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – George Brown

No report.

### Legal Liaison – George Brown

**Comm. Brown:** I sent you today a court case regarding a Federal Court case that was basically someone was disciplined or terminated, I don't know which it was for violating the social media policy of the Fire District. The plaintiff alleged that posting things on social media was our first amendment right, and the court found it not so.

**Sol.Carlamere:** That's correct.

**Comm. Brown:** OK, so with that note in mind, I would like to dust off what our current social media policy is and sit down with the Chief and probably Dep. Chief and maybe the Commissioner of Personnel and get that revised. And that policy would be, if the Board approves, would apply to the Volunteers, Career Personnel, Commissioners, anybody who receives any compensation from the District. And we can look at what this court case said is appropriate and what's not. And I'd like to get that approved at the next meeting if we could.

**Sol.Carlamere:** If you outline what your suggested policy is, I'll make sure that it's conforming with the couple items that they classify as the test to make it compliant.

**Comm. Brown:** The case very clearly says that posting, as an employee is not a first amendment right. And it's interesting that it also included in there that any behavior that would reflect badly upon the District would also be covered. So it's not just when you're in your uniform. So I think we need to get that revised.

**Budget Co-Commissioner – Rich Annacone**

**Comm. Annacone:** The budget is done and out.

**IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – Rich Annacone**

**Comm. Annacone:** We're still waiting.

**Personnel / Administration – Rich Annacone**

**Comm. Annacone:** We were talking about trying to find some kind of medical agency other than an emergency room if we have an issue where somebody here is maybe drinking or something like that. I talked with Gloucester Township and Pine Hill and they both after-hours use the emergency room. There really is nothing else available. During the daytime hours you can go to urgent care or something like that, but night time hours there is only the emergency room.

**Comm. Brown:** I wonder if there is anything in Philly.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** I was never approached by that, but there is a company out there that does that.

**Comm. Brown:** We heard that, but I have it as an outstanding item in Old Business.

**Chief Brezee:** I told him I thought we went with that.

**Comm. Annacone:** Is it 24 hours?

**Comm. Brown:** I believe it was.

**Comm. Annacone:** Like I said, I checked...

**Chief Brezee:** We can't do the emergency room, we saw what happened...

**Comm. Annacone:** But how often does it happen.

**Chief Brezee:** It happened to us once, but what did it almost cost us? It took a lot of work and time.

**Comm. Brown:** It took me about 7 or 8 months to get them to reduce the bill. I put a lot of hours into that, a lot.

**Adm.CI.Cottone:** I thought the final question on that was the weekend cost for that company for them to come out.

**Comm. Brown:** I believe that was the issue.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** It was the weekend cost, but I don't know what it was.

**Comm. Brown:** Alright, just revisit that and follow up, it's from my Old Business for several months. So if we could revisit that, it would be great. Anything else?

**Comm. Annacone:** That's it.

**Personnel / Operations – Rich Annacone**

No report.

**Apparatus – Brian Robinson**

**Comm. Robinson:** I received the Chief's report today; I think everything was pretty well covered. There is a substantial hole in the Chief's car, but it is being addressed obviously.

The new truck is progressing along well. I attended for a few minutes last night to review from the company and I think it was well received by quite a few guys that seemed to pay a lot more attention than I expected to brake functions, electrical, all the little ins and outs. So that went well.

**Fire Department Equipment – Brian Robinson**

**Comm. Robinson:** That's progressing forward for the new truck.

**Fire Department Operations – Brian Robinson**

**Comm. Robinson:** Progress.

**Training – Brian Robinson**

**Comm. Robinson:** Is moving forward, that's for sure.

**Comm. Brown:** I would like to say thanks for the new Squad.

**Chief Brezee:** It's something, isn't it?

**Comm. Brown:** You guys did a nice job. Everybody that went out in the cold, my hats off to you...nice job.

**Chief Brezee:** Do it again in four years.

**Insurance – George Flinn**

**Comm. Flinn:** Did you get thermostats Mike?

**Chief Brezee:** They're going to come...rather than hit us with a service charge coming out for that, it's going to be added to our annual PM's, which is within a month.

**Comm. Flinn:** Sounds good. That's it.

**Sign – George Flinn**

No report.

**Water – George Flinn**

No report.

**Building Maintenance & Grounds – Steve Funkhouser**

**Comm. Funkhouser:** You noticed when we had that snow storm, we had 3 or 4 leaks in areas that we didn't have leaks before. So I've notified the company that came out here and patched the last leaks but I haven't heard back from them yet.

**Comm. Flinn:** They're really not truly roof leaks. The problem is, the ice was built up and everything was damming backwards.

**Chief Brezee:** It was. We know we do have a couple leaks up there. I think it was so bad because...

**Comm. Flinn:** Damming...every building in the whole town was.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** Again, we had the new air conditioning unit put up there. There were a lot of guys on the roof up there, so something may have...

**Comm. Flinn:** This is a different roof over here, right?

**Chief Brezee:** It's all the same material put in the same time.

**Comm. Flinn:** But we didn't touch this roof before.

**Chief Brezee:** That guy did on his hands and knees across every roof up there. He patched every little hole he found. But I believe that over time now, this rubber roof is starting to get a little brittle.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** They also notified the Chief that they could redo the entire roof, but that would cost us a lot of money.

**Chief Brezee:** It would be a lot cheaper than putting an A frame on, but they would take a big piece of rubber again and cover over the roof and seal it down. Last time he said if you guys are looking to go further, but it's 26 years old...how long do you expect it to last.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** For right now, that's all I have to report.

**Communications – Steve Funkhouser**

No report.

**EMS / Supplies & Equipment – Steve Funkhouser**

No report.

**Turn-Out Gear – Steve Funkhouser**

No report.

**Uniforms – Steve Funkhouser**

No report.

**Chief – Michael Brezee**

**Chief Brezee:** My report has been submitted. Just a reminder, you guys know my cell phone, my email, don't wait till the end of the month if you want to ask me something. Call me, stop in, call me to come stop in where you are, whatever.

**Comm. Brown:** OK. Motion to approve the Chief's report?

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

**Chief Brezee:** Dep.Chief Brown and I have both been burning it at both ends, but we've done some work throughout the Township working with the other Fire Companies. The Dep. Chief has worked with some of the other Chief's. We've been having some Chief meetings, get the feel. But something that came out of that was, which had started last year was the joint duty crews between us and 84, Blackwood. They've had several meetings on it now, they've put some stuff down on paper, they got a program in place, and I asked him to come and talk about that because we will need Board approval for an M.O.U., they would like one. You know how I feel.

**Dep.Chief Brown:** Essentially as you all know, the Chief just said we are spending more time doing training on apparatus. They respond down here for any type of structure fire we have in town. So in that perspective, it was something worthwhile doing. We have 24 hour, 6 day a week coverage through the shared services agreement between us and District 5, but Saturday's are often uncovered. We do have days the volunteers are here, but the Saturdays for Blackwood and nights are where they don't have any staffing on at night. Through those meetings,

### Chief – continued

I've been acting pretty much as the liaison with a Captain from Blackwood who came up with the plan that on certain Saturdays we would host our duty crews here as we usually do on those dates, we would handle all of our regular assignments, and in addition during the 6 hour period from 6pm to midnight or 5 to 11 or 7 to 12, we would also handle through a cover essentially their assignments. On pre-designated nights that are agreed upon by both organizations, they would reciprocate that favor and help by handling calls here in District 6 also. It's basically the outline of the letter and program. Eventually what we would like to see is even the crews being mixed with personnel from both Stations running these crews to kind of facilitate that better cooperation and training between the two organizations.

**Comm. Annacone:** So there is no change with District 5, we're still doing that, this is going to be a Saturday night thing basically?

**Chief Brezee:** Yeah, we want to start off with them. We've been doing it for a while trying to get this together and they've had some Officer changes that have moved forward a little more recently, but there were talks last year in reference to 62, 84...everybody was involved and one of the problems we had that really backed us out of it was nobody wanted to do Saturday's. And we're like, that's why we don't have coverage. So Chris has pursued and pursued it with this Captain from 84, and the last time I talked to the Chief he was on board to put together a Saturday program.

**Comm. Annacone:** But if we're having trouble now getting people out on a Saturday, so it's doubled up your opportunity to get people basically for a Saturday?

**Dep.Chief Brown:** The Saturday's that we believe we're responsible for, we have not had any real issues with our personnel here at District 6. It's just a way for a night where there is a need for that coverage that we can guarantee it and try to lessen that burden on our own volunteers on those other nights.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** And that will be a 12 hour duty crew?

**Dep.Chief Brown:** It would be 5 or 6 hours, depending on the availability of the personnel in the evening.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** So past 10 or 12 o'clock, there won't be...

**Dep.Chief Brown:** It's back to business as usual, response from home.

**Comm. Brown:** OK, well it sounds like it's an evolving thing. If you're looking for approval from the Board, we certainly can vote on it right now. I think anything that gives us a little cushion in the operation makes us more efficient and more effective. We're in favor of that, I don't really think you need approval from the Board right now Chief...I think that's your decision.

**Chief Brezee:** Well yeah, I would like to have it approved.

**Sol.Carlamere:** And eventually you're going to put it in an M.O.U.?

**Chief Brezee:** They are putting together an M.O.U.

**Comm. Brown:** At that point, the Board would vote on it.

**Comm. Annacone:** I don't think you're there yet, are you?

**Dep.Chief Brown:** We're in late draft but you would definitely see something concrete by next meeting.

**Comm. Brown:** OK, do you want approval right now to continue doing what you're doing?

**Chief Brezee:** Yeah, I don't want you guys to not know that we're putting it together.

Motion made by Comm. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Funkhouser to approve the ongoing work with Station 84 to work on some joint duty crews for an M.O.U. to formally finalize it when the time comes. Roll call vote, all yes.

### Solicitor – David Carlamere

**Sol.Carlamere:** Nothing to report.

### Resolutions – Jeanette Cottone

**Adm.CI.Cottone:** Resolutions are complete.

### Old Business – George Brown

**Comm. Brown:** We already discussed the drug testing issue. Comm. Annacone is going to follow up on that. Chief, was there anything further regarding the rescue M.O.U.? In the minutes it said you've been discussing how District 6 will move forward when the kits are placed in service. We'll advise the Board and the Department members when decisions have been finalized. Can I just leave that as Old Business, or do I close that?

**Chief Brezee:** Yeah. They had a Chief's meeting, it was discussed there. I wasn't at the meeting, Chris did represent us. There were some questions, but some of the things throughout the County that have been thrown out there as far as opposing this thing, I don't believe we fit into. Nobody talked to us, and we didn't do any training. The Police Department has been in contact with the Chief's the whole time. We've been in touch with the County; we've been in touch with the County Fire Chief's. We all pretty much received our training that we could get through the first time. The boxes are live and if it flies and the dispatch goes out and we have people on, they will be responding.

### Old Business – continued

**Comm. Brown:** But we don't have all the equipment yet either, right?

**Chief Brezee:** We're getting a couple more kits, yes.

**Comm. Brown:** OK, so you'll let us know when that can be moved from the Old Business.  
Any other Old Business? (hearing none)

### New Business – George Brown

**Comm. Brown:** I have one item. As the Commissioners know, I received a letter from District 4 regarding a recommendation for Township consolidation. I'm just making sure that that's known and is a new piece of business. I have nothing to say about it myself, if anybody else wants to address that. I don't think it necessarily requires a response on my part, but I'm open to the Board's opinion.

**Comm. Annacone:** Refresh me about the letter. They just wanted to know...

**Comm. Flinn:** District 4 has no ratables left and losing lots of money so they're looking to get somebody to suck them in. That's what's going on there.

**Chief Brezee:** It's not that cut and dry. They have brought the idea back up again. I think the Chiefs have to have the discussions first, which we've started.

**Comm. Annacone:** I would love to see one District in this town.

**Chief Brezee:** We all would. And I'll tell you, we put it out there to them that we could talk about it, start to work toward it, if it was going to go down, how it was going to go down. Or we can do nothing and sit and wait for the State to come down and go OK, you're now one District. Everybody is watching the League of Municipalities and what's going on there, and Hamilton Township to see what goes on up there. We put the warning out that this may be forced upon us.

**Comm. Annacone:** It's always better to do it yourself than have it forced upon you.

**Chief Brezee:** That's what we put at the table and that's where we're at. The Chiefs are discussing it. My suggestion is that the Board acknowledges the letter. The Chairman said he has no opinion right now and table it until we hear more information.

**Comm. Brown:** I think that's a great idea.

**Dep.Chief Brown:** The exact quote that I gave during the meeting was, is that our District hasn't considered it yet. We hadn't had a Board meeting since we received it. The Chief and I have discussed it, and everything he just said. If District 4 comes calling for a meeting from the Operational side, we'll ensure that there is representation there if the District wishes to be there, and so on and so forth. But other than that, our position is no position.

**Comm. Brown:** I'd like to ask the Solicitor what legal basis if any do we have to take a position for or against this, because I looked at Title 40 this week, and I couldn't find anything.

**Sol.Carlamere:** There is nothing in Title 40 that gives Commissioners jurisdiction to take a position one way or another. The comments that you received from the Chief and Deputy Chief are comments that I'm hearing out there that it really should be originating out from the Chiefs of the different Districts working together to see what is the best accomplishment. None of the Commissioners that I come in contact with have done anything with the Resolution that was promoted by the Commissioners of District 4.

**Comm. Brown:** On that basis, I would like a vote from the Board that no response is required at this time.

**Comm. Annacone:** I have a question. Can we amend that to we have no comment on it at this time, not just not reply? Say we're taking it under advisement...

**Comm. Brown:** I don't understand why we have a legal requirement to reply, and I don't know where all this is going, so I would like to leave it as an old item of business until the Chief supplies us with some more information. They obviously know that we got the letter. I don't know why we need to reply to it.

**Sol.Carlamere:** Another District just left it as an open item on their agenda.

**Comm. Brown:** That's what I'm recommending, leave it as an open item and when the Chief gets more information and can figure out what this really means, comes back to the Board and...I think we would still have a legal issue at that point.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** But is it the Chiefs responsibility to consider a consolidation?

**Comm. Brown:** No, it's not.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** It would be the Boards...

**Comm. Brown:** No, it's not even the Board's decision...

**Comm. Flinn:** It's actually a Council...5% of registered voters have to approve it. It has nothing to do with us.

**Comm. Brown:** It has nothing to do with us. And that's why I want to make sure that we know we have no legal obligation to do anything other than if we saw somebody on the street say hey, I got your letter and keep walking and that's the end of it. I think until we get more information, and the governing body approaches us and says can you guys come to a meeting to talk about this, that's a different story. But right now, I don't see any obligation to do anything, other than to show in our minutes that we did receive the letter...we're not trying to hide anything and leave it at that.

**New Business – continued**

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

**Public Portion – George Brown**

**Comm. Brown:** Public Portion? (hearing none)

**Adjourn – George Brown**

Motion made by Comm. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Funkhouser to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm.  
Roll call vote, all yes.