

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

Meeting Held: March 26, 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. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Annacone. Roll call vote, all yes.

Correspondence – Jeanette Cottone

No report.

Treasurer's Report – Rich Annacone

Comm. Brown: There is a reimbursement on there for \$127.60 for computer anti-virus software that I purchased. It is a reimbursement cost.

Audubon General Account	1,406,952.39
Audubon Payroll Account	95,823.26
Expenditures: 03/26/15	131,700.91

TOTAL AMOUNT FOR APPROVAL 131,700.91

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fire Prevention – George Brown

Comm. Brown: Just to prove I've read the Chief's report, Fire Prevention night will be October 12, 2015.

Legal Liaison – George Brown

Comm. Brown: The Mutual Aid Agreement – the Solicitor sent over the draft for the Mutual Aid Agreement that was discussed at the last meeting. I had two questions on, I don't know if you've seen this or not Chief.

Chief Brezee: No.

Sol.Carlamere: Just for your information, it's the same Agreement, but instead of being Winslow Township Mutual Aid, I thought it best that Winslow sign it as well as District 6. Where they were promoting it as their Mutual Aid Agreement and District 6 was signing with them, I think it should be signed both ways. But the content of the Agreement I really didn't change.

Comm. Brown: And just to be a little persnickety, a question on paragraph 2 on page 2 says the County Communications Center number is 856-783-4808, but that's who you have to call to get Mutual Aid. Don't we just want to have 911 in there.

Chief Brezee: No, but that's all set up automatically...

Comm. Brown: Well the paragraph reads, Request for Mutual Aid and Assistance – All requests for Mutual

Legal Liaison – continued

Aid and Assistance shall be initiated through direct contact with a participating unit at a designated number in the Camden County Fire Coordinator. The Communications Center number is ----, so it makes it sound like in this paragraph that you have to call them to get Mutual Aid when it's already established.

Chief Brezee: I can question it.

Comm. Brown: OK, can you ask that.

Sol. Carlamere: I interpret that, not to interrupt you, but let's say Winslow needs Mutual Aid, Winslow calls, you have a Mutual Aid Agreement, they tone out...

Comm. Annacone: It's not like a fire because obviously you're going to be using the radio for that.

Comm. Brown: I understand, but if you read this paragraph, I don't think it's...since it's not your language. The second thing is, each participating unit shall develop a Municipal Mutual Plan to include Mutual Aid assistance to levels that they deem acceptable or measured against the potential risk. So contractually you're supposed to have a plan in place when you sign this, so my question is...

Chief Brezee: Mutual Aid plan? We do, our boxes institute that Mutual Aid plan.

Comm. Brown: Alright, so the only question then would be paragraph 2. That's the only comment that I have on that.

Computer Services – George Brown

No report.

IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – George Brown

Comm. Brown: We met with Mr. Long regarding the labor agreements. There are still some outstanding issues on a number of items, so I can't report on that this month.

Liaison to the District Volunteers – George Brown

Comm. Brown: Our Jason Powell, departing for Winslow. Thanks for 10 years.

(applause) Good luck to you.

Ff. Powell: Thank you.

Comm. Flinn: Welcome to 30 more.

Chief Brezee: We had that discussion earlier.

Training – Joe Chew

Comm. Brown: The Chief handed me the Training invoices that have been bouncing around with a note from the Chief out of the College saying please process these.

Comm. Chew: They're processed in my mind.

Comm. Brown: OK, well, I think in the interest of trying to show Chief Sandrock that we're just not all no here, we should try to get the request of the history of what District 5 paid.

Comm. Flinn: Whatever that bill is, they paid half. That's a fact.

Comm. Brown: Well then why are we getting a bill for the total amount.

Comm. Annacone: Maybe it was double that.

Comm. Flinn: I know for a fact they paid for half of whatever it cost.

Comm. Brown: I would like to propose that either Comm. Chew or myself write to Chief Sandrock and ask for an inventory of what was paid by District 5 & District 6 in 2012. Let's look at what the numbers were. Anybody motion to do that?

Motion made by Comm. Annacone, seconded by Comm. Chew. Roll call vote, all yes. That's all I have.

Apparatus – Joe Chew

Comm. Chew: We have some issues as is outlined in the Chief's report. We're working through an issue with one of our providers, our vendors, between himself and myself we'll work through that issue with this. Training is ongoing. I know we signed off a couple things for the career guys and any volunteer that has put anything in, I know we signed off for. We should have a burn night coming up next month. That's all I have.

Budget Co-Commissioner – Joe Chew

No report.

Fire Department Equipment – Joe Chew

No report.

Fire Department Operations – Joe Chew

No report.

Budget Co-Commissioner – Rich Annacone

Comm. Annacone: The budget is what the budget is.

IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – Rich Annacone

Comm. Annacone: We met with them a month and a half ago, and we haven't heard anything since.

Comm. Brown: Two months ago.

Comm. Annacone: So I think we need to send a letter and find out what's going on.

Comm. Brown: OK. I had asked the Chief if he had been in contact with Mr. what's-his-name, and he said that they were going to have some sort of meeting on the 14th, it was originally they were going to get back to us after the 14th, so that's my item...

Comm. Annacone: Of April?

Comm. Brown: Of March. So in the interim from last month's meeting until now, that's why I said I was waiting for the 14th to come and go. Anything else?

Comm. Annacone: That's it.

Personnel / Administration – Rich Annacone

No report.

Personnel / Operations – Rich Annacone

No report.

Insurance – George Flinn

Comm. Flinn: Dave, we sent a bill over to District 5 for John Rosado's insurance. I can't get an answer out of Barry because I haven't seen him in almost 3 weeks, and Marge doesn't have an answer for me.

Sol.Carlamere: What was your question?

Comm. Flinn: As of January 1st, John Rosado was an employee of District 5.

Sol.Carlamere: Correct.

Comm. Flinn: District 6 paid his insurance because that's what the State says you have to do, you have to pay it apparently for 30 days. But District 5 should be paying that because he was an employee.

Sol.Carlamere: Did you pay it in advance, did you pay passed January?

Adm.Ci.Cottone: We paid the month of January, District 6. But then the Memorandum of Agreement stated that as of January 1st, District 5 is responsible for all.

Sol.Carlamere: Right, so they should reimburse you for January.

Comm. Flinn: Well that's the thing, I think Jan sent a paper over to Marge, or somebody sent a letter over and it hasn't been responded to, so maybe Dave can check on that for us.

Comm. Annacone: Where has Barry been hiding?

Comm. Flinn: I don't know.

Comm. Annacone: You haven't seen him in three weeks. I thought maybe he was away.

Comm. Flinn: I don't know, I haven't seen him.

Comm. Brown: Anything else?

Comm. Flinn: That's it.

Sign – George Flinn

No report.

Water – George Flinn

No report.

Photographer – George Flinn

No report.

Building Maintenance & Grounds – Steve Funkhouser

Comm. Funkhouser: The roof is still leaking. We're having an issue now, I just had to go out to clean out the parking lot. Our neighbors over here have been parking over here and apparently they decided to clean their truck out with nails and screws and everything else.

Comm. Brown: I just drove through them, so I can't wait to see if I have two flat tires.

Building Maintenance & Grounds – continued

Comm. Funkhouser: I'm just curious if we should look into purchasing more signs that read "Fire Department Parking Only", or "Fire Department Functions", or...I hate to do that, they've been good neighbors but we can't have that stuff out there.

Comm. Chew: Can we send a letter to them and say it's not your dumping ground.

Comm. Funkhouser: But it's not their parking lot either.

Comm. Chew: I understand that, I'm trying to be...

Comm. Funkhouser: They have their customers come in and because they don't have parking, all day long their customers come in, they've had tractor trailers out here in the parking lot.

Comm. Annacone: Try to be a friendly neighbor and...

Comm. Brown: I think we should go talk to them in person.

Comm. Flinn: I say we put the Chief in charge of it.

Chief Brezee: I can handle that if you like. They're not a past neighbor of ours, they're a new tenant in the building across the street and from day one, they've abused our parking lot. They can't even figure out how to park between the lines half the times. I've been watching it and it's gotten very annoying. You showed me that tonight, which I didn't know was there, and I would say that's kind of got me at my tipping point now, I would love to go over and handle it.

Comm. Brown: OK, thanks very much.

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

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's Report – Michael Brezee

Chief Brezee: The report has been submitted. We spoke on Lt. Powell's status. The only other thing I had, we had a fire at 9 Cottage Gate last week as most of you know and this fire went extremely well. It's a duplex, a Landlord type owner with tenants. He called me the other day, and just could not go on enough about the fact of how burned up the bottom unit was, and the top unit does not even look like there was a fire in the building and that's a credit to the guys who did the job. The fire went extremely well as far as our people go, so me and Chris as Chief's are very proud...very proud of how that went down. The homeowner as well is very proud.

Comm. Brown: And I want to say this publicly because I've said it privately to a couple people. If this had happened a few years back when we didn't have the organization that we have in place that's being led by you, that second floor would have been in the basement, and I'm certain of that.

Chief Brezee: Thank you.

Comm. Brown: Hat's off to you and your organization. It was like a well-greased...like a Swiss watch out there that night. So nice job.

Comm. Chew: Can I make a motion to accept the Chief's report.

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

Solicitor – David Carlamere

Sol.Carlamere: I would only comment if you want to move on the Mutual Aid. There is a resolution that you have to adopt to authorize the signing of it. You can move on it with the condition that the Chief checks into the two questions. If you don't move on it, then you have to wait till next meeting.

Comm. Brown: OK, so a motion to adopt a Resolution that the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 6, Township of Gloucester, Camden County, NJ, authorizing the signing of the Fire Emergency Services Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement.

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

Resolutions – Jeanette Cottone

Adm.Ci.Cottone: Nothing else this evening.

Old Business – George Brown

Comm. Brown: Old Business? (hearing none)

New Business – George Brown

Comm. Brown: I received an email from the Red Cross who had a blood drive here a few years ago for a child who was having lots of surgery, and they asked if we would allow them to use the building on May 22, from 1:30pm to 6:30pm for another blood drive. Any comments?

Comm. Funkhouser: I have comments. I'm not sure if that's really a good idea right now with the status of the hall with leaking, if it's a rainy day we'll have buckets and trash cans. I'm not against the Red Cross, but if we had a decent hall or maybe set up in here or something, but just putting them in that hall with not knowing what's up in that roof area, they're drawing blood from people, I just don't think that's a good idea right now. That's my opinion.

Comm. Brown: Would there be any reason why we couldn't move it to the Engine Bay?

Chief Brezee: Is it clean enough?

Comm. Brown: We can ask them.

Chief Brezee: You have the exhaust...even though we have the exhaust ports, there are times...

Comm. Funkhouser: I'd be the first one in line to give blood, but with the way the hall is and leaking...

Comm. Annacone: How big of an area do they use?

Comm. Funkhouser: Last time they used the entire hall, but that was for a special event for a child.

Comm. Brown: Or the other thing is we could ask them to come out and survey the area and see whether or not the apparatus area is acceptable, and if not, what space would be dry enough and big enough for them to operate. I just don't want to say, even though I think your reason is valid, it's like talking to the neighbor, I think it always helps to be friendly and try...

Comm. Funkhouser: I agree. I'm just concerned.

Comm. Brown: It's a valid concern, I'm not minimizing that at all. We're assuming the apparatus area may not be appropriate. Let them tell us.

Chief Brezee: The turn-out gear is full of nasty stuff. I had the conversation with Comm. Funkhouser, and I agree. I would hate for them to be in there and have a ceiling tile come down on somebody who's giving blood. It's very unpredictable in there of what happens. You come in one day and it's raining like crazy outside and there ain't a drop of water. Another time a light drizzle and there is water coming in everywhere.

Comm. Brown: Right, I think it's a very legitimate point, but we don't know what size area they need. Maybe this is large enough if they set their desks up out here in the hallway. I just want to go back to them and say we have a problem, we'd like to accommodate you, can you come out and do a survey and tell us whether or not we can help you or not.

Comm. Funkhouser: Also I understand there is the Church up here and the Point Aerial, so they are still in the area.

Comm. Brown: Yeah, I said that to her that I thought they were still doing the Church and she said they are always looking for more.

Adm.Ci.Cottone: George, you said 5/22, what were the times you mentioned?

Comm. Brown: 1:30pm to 6:30pm.

Adm.Ci.Cottone: Thank you.

Comm. Brown: And I'll make sure she comes out on a day you're around if that's OK.

Public Portion – George Brown

Mr. Kibelstis: Jim Kibelstis, Erial. I have a question on the new apparatus. The Courier Post had an article about a week ago where they discussed using Homeland Security Funds to purchase a vehicle in another County, Gloucester County, and they were talking about how the National Fire Incident Reporting System was one of the deterrents that this company was not filling out their reports, which I know we do. One, I was wondering did we look into getting funds from Homeland Security and if we did, are there any strings that are attached that would deter us from applying for that?

Comm. Brown: I'm currently looking at, and the Chief and I have had several conversations on the Safer Grant which provides some funding to us for either an additional firefighter or some equipment. But I don't think... there is nothing in that grant relative to apparatus.

Chief Brezee: The Assistant to Firefighters Grant, at times had assisted with some departments being able to put money to apparatus. The history of it is, it's very few and far between and those departments are what's considered very, very poor departments that had luck with that type of money for an apparatus when you're

Public Portion – George Brown

talking that much money.

Comm. Annacone: He's mentioning Homeland Security though, that's not through Homeland.

Chief Brezee: A lot of times with Homeland Security, it has to be a specialty type piece. Cherry Hill received a Homeland Security grant for apparatus which was a foam system that is pretty much...and Cherry Hill was able to guarantee that this thing would cover not only the County but the region. Our piece would not be anything like a type of specialty piece that we would be able to use in the region for anything special. I haven't gone after an apparatus-type grant because unfortunately the Federal Government keeps shrinking the money every year.

Comm. Annacone: That is true.

Comm. Brown: So I don't think that's viable Mr. Kibelstis. We would always look into have uncle help us out any which way we can.

Chief Brezee: The big problem we have is we've already saved the money for the truck, and we would have to show that we do not have the money for the truck.

Mr. Kibelstis: I was hoping we would go for two.

Chief Brezee: And we are 100% compliant with NFIRS, if anybody else read that article, and have been for several years.

Mr. Kibelstis: I knew that, but I thought I'd bring it up and see if applied. Thank you.

Closed Session – George Brown

n/a

Adjourn – George Brown

Motion made by Comm. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Chew to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 pm.

Roll call vote, all yes.

Comm. Brown: Thank you everyone.