

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

**Meeting Held:** May 26, 2016  
**Meeting Place:** Board Office  
**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:30 pm  
**Members of Board Present:** **Chairman** – George Brown  
**Vice Chairman** – Richard Annacone, excused  
**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:**

Comms. Robinson, Flinn, Funkhouser and Brown. Comm. Annacone is excused, he may show up later.

**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. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Funkhouser. Roll call vote, all yes.

**Correspondence** – Jeanette Cottone

**Adm.Cl.Cottone:** It's been distributed.

**Treasurer's Report** – Rich Annacone

Audubon General Account	1,692,496.13
Audubon Payroll Account	18,892.12
Expenditures: May 2016	58,664.91

TOTAL AMOUNT FOR APPROVAL      58,664.91

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget Co-Commissioner** – George Brown

No report.

**Computer Services** – George Brown

No report.

**Fire Prevention** – George Brown

No report.

**Legal Liaison** – George Brown

No report.

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

**Comm. Brown:** Any new members?

**Dep.Chief Brown:** No, not at this time.

**IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – George Brown**

No report.

**Budget Co-Commissioner – Rich Annacone**

No report.

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

No report.

**Personnel / Administration – Rich Annacone**

No report.

**Personnel / Operations – Rich Annacone**

No report.

**Apparatus – Brian Robinson**

No report.

**Fire Department Equipment – Brian Robinson**

No report.

**Fire Department Operations – Brian Robinson**

No report.

**Training – Joe Chew**

No report.

**Insurance – George Flinn**

No report.

**Sign – George Flinn**

No report.

**Water – George Flinn**

No report.

**Building Maintenance & Grounds – Steve Funkhouser**

**Comm. Funkhouser:** The crews restored the ceiling tiles in the hall, it looks real good in there. We haven't had any other leaks so that's a good thing. They've been working diligently out on the property, on the lawn. It looks great out there.

**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:** The Chief's report was issued, the comments were light because I ran out of time. A whole lot's been going on. The big thing is the truck is underway, they started to build the cab. It was in primer paint yesterday. They're expecting by the end of June we may be taking a trip up to Ephrata PA to see the boomer installed. Me and Tom have been going back and forth with our sales company as far as making sure everything is coming along.

**Chief – continued**

The other thing we have that is not in the report is that we are in the company of IMS greatness. What that means is, I'm honored that my Officer Dep. Chief Brown was chosen by the Camden County Chief's Assn. and the Camden County Fire Coordinator to join the Camden County Fire Coordinator's as a Dep. Fire Coordinator for the County. What that means is, when we get these larger incidents, there is a group of men that are considered our IMS gods, they are very good at the Incident Management System and they're brought into these fires to make sure the IMS is covered. The big thing there is, most of the guys in there are a little longer in years. Chris we know is a lot younger and he's been asked to come up on that. I was honored by it and when I brought it to him, he was honored by it, so I think he deserves it. Congratulations there, and I think he's really made us look good.

**Comm. Brown:** Nice job.

**Chief Brezee:** He'll be out all hours of the night all over the County.

**Comm. Flinn:** He is anyway.

**Comm. Brown:** Nothing new there.

**Comm. Flinn:** There are only two people in the streets in the middle of the night, that's George Flinn and Chris Brown.

**Comm. Brown:** Anything else?

**Chief Brezee:** No, that's it.

**Comm. Brown:** I have one comment about an item in the Chief's report. Looking to see if your seeking any guidance, I'm not trying to tell you what to do. But your comment about 863 and how to make room for the new Squad, do you need anything from the Board on that? Any guidance?

**Chief Brezee:** My opinion is there is not much to sell there because of some of the problems with it. If the Board wishes we'll contact one of those companies. Have them come in, evaluate it and see if they think it's worth putting it up for sale. I know Pine Hill only got a couple thousand for their last truck. I don't want the Board to think we have \$20,000 sitting there, I don't think we do. The truck has a lot of problems, one of the biggest being the cab lock. The cab lock is not even working right now. You could ride down the street, hit a bump and watch the cab bounce up and down. We decided years ago not to put any more money into it. I think if we contact the company, if they come in and say you know what, we really don't see any money to be made here so they're not going to go out and market it and sell it. If we find an organization where we can donate...I found a couple, whether it stays in the country or goes overseas, that doesn't really matter to me. I guess I'm looking for what you guys want.

**Comm. Brown:** I think, again because we always have people looking at what we're doing and subject us to things that are not necessarily true. If standard process is to get a price, go get a price. Then come back to the Board with a price and with the organizations who we could donate it to. At least that way we can walk the path of the things you're supposed to do all the time.

**Chief Brezee:** I had one guy tell me "there's a lot of aluminum on that truck." It might be worth its weight in aluminum. I would not want to see us go that route knowing there are departments out there that have nothing or very little.

**Comm. Brown:** I guess, just so you know, let's make the resolution authorizing the Chief to go out and explore the sale of the vehicle.

**Comm. Flinn:** I'll make that motion, because I did it a couple years back and we still didn't sell it.

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

**Chief Brezee:** Also on that, with the Board's blessing, I'll put together with Jan an ad notice to put the pick-up truck for a sealed bid, I thought maybe starting at \$500...the old pick-up truck.

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

**Comm. Brown:** We want to get a closed bid on the old pick-up truck, and we want the Chief to explore the parties that might want to buy Engine 863 then come back to the Board and based on the amount of money offered, decide whether it's in the interest of the larger things in life to donate it to someone or take some amount of money for it.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** Question, didn't you say there is a company that comes out to let you know.

**Chief Brezee:** There are brokers out there, they'll come out, take a look at it and say we think it's worth this much. If the amounts good enough because they have to get their cut, then they'll push to sell that truck or they'll go I'm not interested.

**Sol.Carlamere:** Before you could just donate it somewhere, you have to get an idea of the value.

Chief – continued

**Comm. Brown:** We wanted to go through the normal process and see what the results were. Anything else Chief?

**Chief Brezee:** No sir.

Solicitor – David Carlamere

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

Resolutions – Jeanette Cottone

**Adm.Ci.Cottone:** We do have one resolution this evening. Resolution R-16-16. This Resolution will take the place of the original AIG Delta Dental for the District employees and it is being replaced by Delta Dental of NJ.

Motion made by Comm. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Robinson.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** Question, is there any changes in the dental?

**Adm.Ci.Cottone:** It's the same program, they gave us the same plan.

**Comm. Flinn:** Just changing the name.

**Comm. Brown:** It's the same coverage, and as a matter of fact it's a little less expensive.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** OK.

**Comm. Brown:** I'd like to thank the Clerk for all the research she put into that, I know it took a lot of time. We greatly appreciate it.

Old Business – George Brown

**Comm. Brown:** I sent Mr. Allen a note earlier today advising him that we had been assigned a mediator, that we've not forgotten about his increase in the raise, just to keep him informed.

The paving on Williamstown Rd. was finally striped. I'd like to thank the Solicitor for phone calls that he made on our behalf for the road after I guess after 4 years, it finally got done. So thank you very much.

The 5/13 Red Cross drive was a success, given the very bad weather we had that day, there was a torrential downpour. They hoped to get 25 donors, they got 20. There were 36 people that signed up, so there was a pretty large no-show factor. I'd like to thank the firefighters that helped the Red Cross...Adam and the team and the guys who put the ceiling tiles up which was already mentioned. I thought it was a good showing. Having said that, I got an email from the Red Cross saying "We're anticipating the Red Cross will be going on an urgent appeal very soon." So we'd like to have another blood drive here on August 31<sup>st</sup>, probably the same time. So I'd like the Board's approval to authorize that.

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

New Business – George Brown

**Comm. Brown:** The first item is the outstanding invoice that was due. As some of you know, it's been going on for some time. We had an incident last May where a firefighter was sent for a drug test, and when the bill actually came in, we got \$256.00 for the drug test and \$1,003.00 for the emergency room. The facts are without having to read the entire letter is that the firefighter went in and went back to provide a specimen for the drug test and walked out. There were no emergency room services really provided. Comm. Chew had this issue for a while and since he's no longer here it was passed back to me. I didn't want to assign it to somebody else since I was personally involved in the incident. I really believe that this is either a mistake or an unconscionable act on behalf of Virtua. I tried on 4 occasions to speak to somebody there. On 3 occasions they promised somebody would call me back. I have all the dates and times and who I spoke to, they never called me back. Trying to get resolution, I spoke to them last week or the week before and asked to speak to a Manager. I was told to hold on, I held on for a while and the person that I spoke to said that these charges are undisputable and the Manager said they're not going to address them. I found the name of the Senior Vice President of hospital services and I wrote them a certified letter which I sent to him last week. There are two issues here, one is the \$1,000 charge which I really feel should not be applicable, but secondly because the bill was put in the fill-in's name, the fill-in didn't pay the bill because he was expecting us to handle it. We didn't pay it because we thought it was unfair. They have now assessed his credit score for failure to pay this bill. So I asked Virtua in this letter to eliminate the \$1,000 charge and to make right the firefighter's credit score. Should they continue to do what they've done so far which is ignore me, we're going to have to pay the bill, but I think we are obligated to help the firefighter straighten out his credit score.

**Comm Flinn:** You can simply write a letter for him to send to all three credit bureaus and they'll straighten it out.

### **New Business – continued**

**Comm. Brown:** The reason why this letter is so long and I took the time to write it, and I sent it to him already saying I think this will help adjust your credit score if Virtua doesn't do it. And I do believe it would do that. But if we should have to spend some money to fix his credit score, I think we have the obligation to do that, and I'm asking the Board for the authorization of \$250.00 if we need to spend it to help him fix his credit score. It came here, I thought we were going to handle it, it got mishandled for a bunch of reasons, and I would just like authorization to...

**Comm. Flinn:** I make a motion to let George Brown handle this in any manner he needs to.

Motion made by Comm. Flinn seconded by Comm. Robinson to authorize \$250.00 if we need to spend it to help the firefighter straighten out his credit score. Roll call vote, all yes.

**Comm. Brown:** As a result of this it made us aware of the fact that we really need a vendor to send anyone who needs a drug test under the provisions of a 1999 Resolution that the Board has in effect.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** I got our contract from Cherry Hill that I retired with and passed it on to Comm. Brown and spoke to a company that Cherry Hill deals with called Ambassador, and I was waiting for the woman to give me a proposal and I tried twice today but she wasn't in her office. But the quotes I was getting from her on the phone was \$60 for a hair test, all different steps they could do. Hair, urine samples, so on and so forth. Nothing was \$1,200... nothing, not even close. She said if it's needed on a weekend or holiday they will come out and do the testing. It may be a little more money wise. That would be in the proposal of what it is. It won't be \$1,200. It sounds like a great deal to me.

**Comm. Flinn:** We just got to keep in mind we've got to follow the letter of our policy because that's a negotiable item in the contract.

**Comm. Brown:** Again, we're not changing either the labor agreement or Resolution 10-16-99, it's been in place for 17 years as to when and where we can do it.

**Comm. Flinn:** But type of test, I don't know if it says it in there. I didn't even read it.

**Comm. Brown:** It doesn't say that.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** I wasn't even aware that there was a policy set up.

**Comm. Brown:** Neither was I, and the Clerk reminded me that I signed mine 10 years ago, no wonder I forgot about it.

**Comm. Flinn:** It's a urine test or whatever it's supposed to be.

**Comm. Brown:** This next motion is about...there is no obligation in terms of any kind of annual fee or anything. We're going to get the schedule, it seems to be reasonable. I'd like to pass a motion authorizing the Commissioner of Personnel, the Commissioner of Operations and the Chief to review what comes in and say yes, this is going to be a vendor who we're going to use, and we'll train everybody as to how to contact this vendor should this ever happen again.

**Comm. Robinson:** My only question would be the wording. Is the policy any accident?

**Comm. Brown:** No. The policy that's currently in effect does not specify. And as the Chief, I think pointed out, it's got to be left to the discretion of the Chief and the Commissioner of Operations and Commissioner of Personnel to decide when this should be done. If you're sitting at a stopped traffic light and somebody rear-ends you, that does not arise for the need of a drug test. So we're going to leave it in your hands and Comm. Annacone and the Chief to decide. One unfortunate problem with this is, is that when this incident happened, there were a lot of people away. It never happens when were all here. What I'm hoping we'll do is get on the same page so if there are not the three of you available and two of you agree that it needs to be done, then we'll do it. If two of you disagree, then call me up and I'll be the tie breaking vote if necessary. The most important thing is to be consistent in how we do this so that we're not picking on career vs. volunteer, or volunteer vs. career. We want a policy that's even handed, everybody understands when and how it will be done. And if you've got a vendor that will come out and do, because this happened on a Sunday, which is the only reason why we picked Virtua.

**Comm. Robinson:** My only question was if it was something minor.

**Comm. Brown:** The problem is that we really didn't have in the 1999 Resolution, it doesn't say who shall order that. We did have a Chief in 1999, well we had a Chief, but not a good Chief. So we've got a Chief now and we've got a good Board, and I think if people have faith in the even handedness of the Chief and the Board, everything will be OK. So can we have a resolution to approve this vendor?

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

**Comm. Funkhouser:** As soon as I get the proposals, I'll hand them out.

## New Business – continued

**Comm. Brown:** When the County radio system went into effect, those of us that had scanners that we purchased were unable to listen on our own scanners. I think it's really important that the Commissioners not serve as judge and jury, but act as ears for the Chief and listening to the calls, especially as it relates to the shared services issues, I think is very important. The Chief has vacation time, he's away from radio range when he is. I think that what we hear we can report to him and let him decide. I've had discussions with Comm. Funkhouser and Comm. Robinson, and not with you Comm. Flinn because you already have a radio. But I'd like to have the Board's approval to buy scanners that look like this. I bought one for myself, I don't want the Board to buy me one. They're roughly about \$600 fully equipped. For any Commissioner that wants one, they're the property of the Board. I'll do the programming. The great feature about these is that you can record what is on the scanner and give that to the Chief so it's not your opinion of what you heard, you just say "here Chief...here's that call from the other day, you might want to listen to that, and leave it at that. The Chief is OK with us acting as his eyes and ears. I'll find out who needs one. I don't think Comm. Annacone wants one so it would really be Comm. Robinson and Comm. Funkhouser. They're roughly \$600 apiece. I'd like the Board's approval to authorize that. The radios...if you wanted to buy the Commissioner's radios, they would be \$3,000, so we're saving roughly \$2,300 per radio if we go this route. The quality is as good as the \$3,000 radio. You're only getting a receiver here, so I don't need to say anything. If we agree, and I believe there's money in the budget, I'd like a resolution to go ahead and get them for the Commissioners.

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

**Comm. Robinson:** Under New Business, I spoke to Comm. Funkhouser, Uniforms are his area of expertise. But a few of us as you know attended a Council meeting just to gain knowledge and what was coming to our local as far as a company, and in doing so most of the council people walked by the back row looking at us like "who are they?" In my experience, they kind of have the same right to know who we are as we do them. Am I correct sir?

**Comm. Funkhouser:** You're correct.

**Comm. Robinson:** As far as they may have a question for us. So I went out to Public Safety Uniform who is our current vendor that we've been utilizing. I spoke to the owner, I've known them for years. There are a couple shirt options. They've done a lot of custom work for me. It was simply the golf shirt, relatively casual. In the summer the Council meetings aren't real formal. Or maybe something if it's a little cooler just to throw over top and you can toss it on if you wish. Not expensive. The top shirt sells for \$25.00. You get a Columbia, and you take it over and she puts the thing on there, it's not expensive. And I will look into something more formal. There are suit pocket holders for your badge and ID.

**Comm. Brown:** We have those.

**Comm. Robinson:** You do sir?

**Comm. Brown:** Yes.

**Comm. Robinson:** OK, just in case we need to attend, or God forbid viewings, funerals, that type, something more formal.

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Flinn to go and get shirts or whatever for the Commissioners, it's a nominal amount of money. Roll call vote, all yes.

**Comm. Brown:** Any other New Business? (hearing none)

## Public Portion – George Brown

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

## Closed Session – George Brown

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Robinson to go into Closed Session at 6:55 pm. Roll call vote, all yes.

**Comm. Brown:** The Board has come out of Closed Session at 7:10 pm. I've closed the minute's provisions, nothing further will be discussed until the meeting next month.

## Adjourn – George Brown

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Robinson to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm. Roll call vote, all yes.