

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

**Meeting Held:** May 28, 2015  
**Meeting Place:** Board Office  
**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:30pm  
**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. Funkhouser. Roll call vote, all yes.

**Correspondence** – Jeanette Cottone  
**Adm.CI.Cottone:** It's been distributed.

**Treasurer's Report** – Rich Annacone

Audubon General Account	1,217,389.42
Audubon Payroll Account	23,793.45
Expenditures:	57,771.21
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT FOR APPROVAL</b>	<b>57,771.21</b>

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Computer Services** – George Brown  
No report.

**Fire Prevention** – George Brown  
**Comm. Brown:** I spoke to the Manager at Lowes on Sunday and he's approved us again for use of the building for Fire Prevention night. He's interested in working with us in any way he can, and I'll discuss one idea that was suggested to me in a second.

**IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner** – George Brown  
No report.

**Legal Liaison** – George Brown  
**Comm. Brown:** I'd like to ask the Solicitor, I understand that the Township has a local ordinance, Chapter 58 Ordinance, called licensing for hawkers, peddlers, canvassers' and solicitors.  
**Sol.Carlamere:** Yes.  
**Comm. Brown:** OK. And would that ordinance apply to board-up companies.

**Legal Liaison – continued**

**Sol.Carlamere:** Board-up companies? No, I believe it applies to the individuals who walk in neighborhoods, knock on doors...

**Comm. Brown:** That's a board-up company.

**Sol.Carlamere:** And try to solicit work, depending on what they're doing, if they're walking the neighborhood, then they have to get a license.

**Comm. Brown:** What happens if six of them show up at the scene of a fire and try to solicit the board-up and clean-up operation of the damaged property.

**Sol.Carlamere:** I'm not sure if that's going to apply because I recall when it was drafted, there were two things. It talked about the hawkers that park on street corners and the ordinance requires them to move. One talks about individuals that sell wares by knocking on doors either magazines or whatever. You have to first get a license to do that. Then the license is good for a short period of time, then it expires and if they're going to continue they have to get another license. I'm not too sure if that Ordinance would apply to someone that appears at a fire scene and talks to an individual property owner about boarding-up their home or the department of Police who control the scene. I don't believe that applies to that situation, it's more for hawkers, knocking on neighborhood doors.

**Comm. Brown:** The Ordinance reads, without reading the whole thing but, "going from place to place or street to street conveying and/or transporting goods, products, wares, merchandise, food or drink or any product thereof." So certainly a board-up applies to the definition of products. Offering or exposing the same for sale or making sales and delivery of articles...so if the board-up company comes with sheet rock and wants to get the go ahead. So in my opinion, Chief I don't want to put words in your mouth, I believe the spirit of this ordinance was to stop people from soliciting. And it also covers the first 24 hours. But there has been an ongoing problem with the board-up vendors...

**Chief Brezee:** Countywide.

**Comm. Brown:** Countywide.

**Sol.Carlamere:** I think if you want to address that, I would say the ordinance should be amended to address that situation. If you had vendors going and knocking on doors to replace windows, do roof repair, sell power-washing, that kind of stuff, I think the Ordinance applies because they're going around neighborhoods knocking on doors doing that. The intent of the Town is to make sure the individual is licensed so that if you open the door to someone, they're supposed to be wearing a badge with a picture on it and the Township license. I don't think the ordinance was designed and intended for that specific situation. If you wanted to, I believe there should be an amendment to the ordinance.

**Chief Brezee:** An amendment would be easier than creating an ordinance. Many of the towns in Camden County have started putting together these ordinances to stop this. We're getting 6-7 companies on scene within 5 minutes of the fire trying to get ahold of the homeowners, and it's gotten pretty ugly in some towns.

**Sol.Carlamere:** I think there should be a section amendment to the ordinance to prohibit that. A license situation wouldn't apply because the individual has to get licensed through a specific act, I don't know how they identify fires during a certain period of time...

**Chief Brezee:** It's a board-up. What they do is they come in to do the board-up in hopes that they will get the restoration job. The board-up puts their foot in the door. If they don't get the restoration job, they then turn board-up invoices into the insurance company for 5-6 sheets of plywood and nails for \$25,000. It's gotten way out of hand. Some of our residents have been taken advantage of as well as many throughout the County.

**Sol.Carlamere:** Do you know of some towns that have adopted such an ordinance? If you have that, that's great rather than trying to reinvent a wheel. If you don't, you should write a letter to the Clerk because then it finds its way into the work agenda for Counsel to discuss drafting an amendment provision to this ordinance.

**Comm. Brown:** Mr. Kibelstis was kind enough last year to send me an article from the Courier Post and it said that several towns also require restoration and board-up companies to obtain solicitation license prior to speaking with residents. That's the other thing, besides a solicitation license, we don't know that these people are even licensed to do the board-up. So it becomes an immediate problem in terms of safety and compliance.

**Chief Brezee:** As well as, isn't that the law that also states its dusk to dawn, they're not allowed to do that?

**Comm. Brown:** The first 24 hours, they cannot be there between 6pm and 8am.

**Sol.Carlamere:** The first 24 hours...

**Comm. Flinn:** That's not the board-up company though, that covers the adjustors only. Not board-ups, the adjustors. The thing with the board-up companies is, they are a licensed contractor in the State of

### Legal Liaison – continued

New Jersey. They have their business certificates and they can operate any way they want.

**Comm. Chew:** So are tow companies, and not every tow company can show up to tow a vehicle, so there is a rotation probably that occurs that probably could occur with the board-up companies.

**Comm. Annacone:** The ordinance covers that.

**Comm. Chew:** That's what I'm saying, once we get that ordinance, maybe that's how it goes. They call County or the Police and say we need a board-up company and they look at who's next on the list.

**Chief Brezee:** County won't give that information.

**Sol. Carlamere:** I would say if you want to require a license, what's to stop 4 or 5 companies from going into the town, having a license and that means they can all show up to a fire scene then.

**Chief Brezee:** I think with the license and the ordinance we state the rules.

**Sol. Carlamere:** You have to have some restrictions on how they function and operate, whatever their qualifications.

**Comm. Annacone:** Much like a tow company. There are only so many allowed in the town and every year they have to apply for it and they go on rotating lists.

**Sol. Carlamere:** They're on that list and that's where it probably can pattern itself out of the Township's tow ordinance because the Township's tow ordinance has a rotation list but it only applies to being called by the official, meaning the Police department. So if you're at a fire scene and you're on a rotation list of whoever secured a license for these companies, then you call them on a rotation list and that's probably the Chief or whoever is in charge of the fire scene just like whatever Police officer is in charge of the accident or whatever. They call the towing company on a rotation list.

**Comm. Flinn:** That takes up of the board-up guys, but that doesn't stop the adjustors.

**Chief Brezee:** The adjustors rarely show up when we're still operating on a scene. They're called in by the board-ups afterward.

**Comm. Brown:** Just for the record, the problem we're trying to address here is two-fold. First of all, these people portray themselves as out there to help when people are at their probably weakest and injured and shocked moment, so that's not fair in my opinion. Secondly their behavior on the fire grounds becomes counter-productive to a good operation. I've seen situations where they knock you where they're trying to go and see the Chief or whoever. I would say that we should go through whatever channel we need to amend the local ordinance.

**Chief Brezee:** If it pleases the Board, I will...we've been discussing it in the Chief's Association. I'll do the research on it. One thing I know the Township is going to want is all 6 fire departments on board, I'll take care of that. And then we'll go for getting something enacted and of course, then we're looking for with all of our ordinances, the Police Department to enforce them for us.

**Sol. Carlamere:** If the ordinance is addressing those that respond to the fire scene, would it not be the Chief who is in control of the fire scene, because that's when the call should be made.

**Chief Brezee:** If 6 of them show up unlicensed or not within the ordinance...

**Sol. Carlamere:** You can ask them to leave, because what happens is...as a towing ordinance, the only tow company that can respond to the accident scene or the abandoned vehicle or stolen vehicle or whatever is the company that's called by the Police Officer at the scene. Otherwise if someone else shows up, they are chased away. The ordinance also regulates fees and charges and times of response.

**Chief Brezee:** On a fire scene, I don't have time to be chasing people away. What I'm saying here is, if we get this ordinance I would like the Police to enforce it for me. They handle crowd control on fire scenes. I guess all I'm saying is, I'd like them to be aware of this and not have to explain it to them on a fire scene when I'm supposed to be directing fire crews, that these people have to leave and this is why.

**Sol. Carlamere:** So the ordinance should allow the call of the company by the Police Department? You can do that.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** Is there an ordinance that you as Chiefs have put together?

**Chief Brezee:** No, and there are several different ordinances that Fire Chiefs have gone off and done themselves and Sandrock has had a lot of problems with this. He's had a lot of problems with people abusing their position with this. So he has preached at the Chief's meetings that if we can't get something together here, everybody go back to your own towns and get it done because you're leaving your citizens out there, and we're here to protect them during and after the fire.

**Comm. Brown:** Not to say that there have been cases where people have misrepresented their position as being part of the Fire Company soliciting a board-up, OK. So that's the third part of the problem. I think we need to do something about this, and I'll help you with whatever.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** Is there any way the Chiefs have gone to the County with this?

**Chief Brezee:** The County is one man now, and that's Paul Sandrock. He has taken it as high as he can go with it, and as you can imagine they are a little too busy to deal with this small problem.

**Legal Liaison – continued**

**Comm. Funkhouser:** So what you're saying then is, it's the individual town that's going to have to solve this problem?

**Chief Brezee:** Each town is going to have to solve this problem.

**Sol.Carlamere:** Direct the letter to the Clerk, make sure you have the support of the other Chief's, say that in the letter, and it will find its way in, and I'll know what you're talking about.

**Comm. Brown:** And for the record, the local ordinance that I referenced, who does the enforcement of that?

**Sol.Carlamere:** The Township.

**Comm. Brown:** The Police, or...

**Sol.Carlamere:** Well the Police are the code enforcement of Gloucester Township.

**Chief Brezee:** The Police can write any ordinance.

**Comm. Brown:** OK, so if I saw a hawker, peddler, I could call and say...

**Sol.Carlamere:** Just call the Police.

**Comm. Brown:** OK, that's consistent in what we're asking for, it should be the same thing.

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

**Comm. Brown:** I read the Chief's report and his support for National Night Out. I'm just wondering if we should ask Lowes if they would like to come up and participate. The Manager again reiterated he would like to do anything that they can in the Community, for the Community. I know its Target's night, but if he would send some people up here and do something within the realms of good taste and order, I think it might be just one further indication of how important they are to us.

**Comm. Chew:** I support it wholeheartedly.

**Comm. Brown:** Does anybody see a problem with it?

**Chief Brezee:** Last year we did the first kind of little Open House here, and Chris did a great job with it and the town really liked it and we want to make it bigger and do some more.

**Comm. Brown:** OK, so we can approach Lowes.

**Apparatus – Joe Chew**

No report.

**Budget Co-Commissioner – Joe Chew**

No report.

**Fire Department Equipment – Joe Chew**

No report.

**Training – Joe Chew**

**Comm. Chew:** They did a burn building. Everything was in the report for Apparatus. The bi-annual maintenance was completed. Going back to Training, because of my work schedule, I was not able to gather my thoughts with Dep. Chief Brown and Chief Brezee for the bills owed to the fire school. I will get that done within this next month and report back.

**Fire Department Operations – Joe Chew**

**Comm. Chew:** There are no issues that I'm aware of, and that's all I have to 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.

**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:** The Chief wrote in his report in regards to the weeding and some gardening flowers for the building, and make the building look nice as we all know.

The building committee went to the Woodbury Heights Fire Department and that was with Mayor Connelly and a tour of his building that he designed. I think the committee's feeling of the building was that the work that was done in the building was a little on the volunteer type of building. It wasn't professionally done. There were areas in the building that weren't there that should have been there. So the committee will be working shortly on finding...

**Comm. Flinn:** A new designer?

**Comm. Funkhouser:** Different architects. Have you read that book Chief? Have you read the magazine or looked at it? There are a lot of architects in there. There is an architect that we spoke to from N. Jersey that I have to get in contact with. I apologize I've been busy this week and haven't had time, but we'll get on it. Other than that, the building is still here, and that's all I have.

**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 report has been submitted and it covers National Night Out. We are looking at another rough year on apparatus repairs. So I'm keeping an eye on them and prioritizing what we're fixing. We've even taken on some of the projects ourselves and are doing in-house to try and save a few bucks there. But it's going to be another rough year with that line item.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** In regards to the apparatus, there are times I come by the station and the apparatus is sitting outside. I understand the quick response, but with new apparatus that we're going to be getting shortly, the paint job...the sun is tearing these apparatus up.

**Chief Brezee:** That's the only thing that makes them red. Didn't you notice the one that stays inside is yellow.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** I just think maybe down the line we'll have to start thinking about keeping them inside.

**Chief Brezee:** I like them outside sometimes because I like the people to be able to walk by and walk around them. We do it in the summer, we find when we put them outside we get more visitors, people stopping by.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** My point is, the apparatus is a lot of money for paint jobs on it. The paint is fading away, look at the apparatus out here now. It's fading away from the sunshine.

**Comm. Brown:** It's certainly easier to clean the floor with them outside.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** I'm not trying to be funny here, I'm trying to make a point.

**Chief Brezee:** In '95 somebody thought all glass doors would be a great idea.

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

**Solicitor – David Carlamere**

**Sol.Carlamere:** I wasn't sure if the District moved or intended to participate with the County in the natural gas supply as the County being the lead agency in the co-op. There is a resolution just in case you were going to participate in that.

**Comm. Brown:** I think we'd look into that. I'll take the responsibility to look into it...

**Adm.Ci.Cottone:** I believe Mr. Funkhouser submitted the application with that.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** It wasn't for natural gas, it was for the electric at the time.

**Comm. Flinn:** What do they want us to do?

**Sol.Carlamere:** The form resolution that puts the County as the lead agency in the natural gas supply service. So if you want electric I'll change this. But when you're ready to do that, I have the resolution I'll just change it.

**Comm. Flinn:** So wait a minute, we would pay our bill to the County.

**Sol.Carlamere:** No, the County goes out. In the co-op, it takes the lead agency position for the bidding and gets the low bid. It's almost like a state contract. If we participate in the County, you contract with that South Jersey Gas or whoever it is at whatever rate they give the County, but you pay them direct. It's the lead agency that does the co-op and bidding.

**Comm. Flinn:** I'd rather negotiate on my own.

**Comm. Brown:** We'll look into that.

**Resolutions – Jeanette Cottone**

**Adm.Ci.Cottone:** Nothing this evening.

**Old Business – George Brown**

**Comm. Brown:** The blood drive. I got an email from the Red Cross that said they collected 25 productive units, potentially saving the lives of 75 patients. This was a huge success for your first drive. Thanks. Thank you, nice job.

**New Business – George Brown**

**Comm. Brown:** We got the E-Z pass devices for the Chief's car and Dep. Chief's vehicles and finally getting them all set up, so that's something else that got done.

**Public Portion – George Brown**

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

**Closed Session – George Brown**

n/a

**Adjourn – George Brown**

Motion made by Comm. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Funkhouser to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm.  
Roll call vote, all yes.