

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

Meeting Held: November 18, 2014
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, excused
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. Chew, Flinn, Funkhouser and Brown present. Comm. Annacone is excused.

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. Chew. Roll call vote, all yes.

Correspondence – Jeanette Cottone

Adm.Ci.Cottone: It's been passed out.

Treasurer's Report – Jeanette Cottone

11/18/2014:

Audubon General Account	1,070,032.58
Audubon Payroll Account	39,135.60
Expenditures:	34,654.85
TOTAL AMOUNT FOR APPROVAL	34,654.84

Comm. Brown: For the record, the payments to George Brown were \$1,215.16. A reimbursement for the Camera and batteries.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Computer Services – George Brown

No report.

Fire Prevention – George Brown

No report.

IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – George Brown

No report.

Legal Liaison – George Brown

No report.

Liaison to the Fire Company – George Brown

No report.

Apparatus – Joe Chew

Comm. Chew: Other than the issue that we had today with 85 not getting out for a mutual aid assignment that we had which Comm. Flinn and Chief Brezee will be looking into. I have no other report.

Budget Co-Commissioner – Joe Chew

No report.

Fire Department Equipment – Joe Chew

No report.

Fire Department Operations – Joe Chew

No report.

Training – Joe Chew

No report.

Budget Co-Commissioner – Rich Annacone

No report.

IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – Rich Annacone

No report.

Personnel / Administration – Rich Annacone

No report.

Personnel / Operations – Rich Annacone

No report.

Insurance – George Flinn

Comm. Flinn: I think we got our numbers in with the 2.5% increase Jan?

Adm.CI.Cottone: Yeah, no more than 2.5%.

Comm. Flinn: In the insurance. 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 only thing I have to report is in regards to the air conditioning unit. We had another unit go down and we had to have that taken care of.

Comm. Flinn: The heat exchanger went bad.

Comm. Funkhouser: Correct. And that was a repaired, correct?

Comm. Flinn: It was done Saturday. They called me, I approved it. I called Comm. Brown and it's fixed.

Comm. Funkhouser: 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: Nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Brown: The report for the month will be coming subsequent so we can approve it at the next meeting.

Solicitor – David Carlamere

Sol. Carlamere: Nothing to report.

Resolutions – Jeanette Cottone

Adm.CI.Cottone: None.

Old Business – George Brown

Comm. Brown: (hearing none)

New Business – George Brown

Comm. Brown: (hearing none)

Public Portion – George Brown

Comm. Brown: Mr. Kemery, would you like to speak to the Board?

Mr. Kemery: Thank you Mr. Chairman. My apologies for not being able to arrive here as I initially intended to, ahead of the meeting. I just delivered to you correspondence relative to the subject that's been on going for a little bit of time – an Intergovernmental Transfer. Fire District 5 has approved the subject on...they did that on 11/4/14. I believe all subjects, and the matter is fully described in the letter that I gave to you as well as to your Solicitor. The target date by Fire District 5, and I believe by you as long as it's attainable, is January 1, and that makes everything clean as far as personnel issues. That being said, if you need to take a couple of moments to review it, if there is any need for an Executive Session on personnel matters before you can act on that. But I would ask that, if possible, if you could take action on the approval of the IGT pursuant to Civil Service regs, provided the Solicitor has reviewed everything. Mr. Carlamere being present at Fire District's 5 meeting when everything went on, assuming that everything I've reduced to writing is an accurate and full description of things. If you're able to take that action that the matter could be moved forward through appropriate Civil Service regulations. That would be appreciated. That way that action will be taken care of and then Fire District 6 would be able to take your necessary action to replace that member. Again, I make myself available if there is any need during the Executive Session to speak to you. Thank you.

Comm. Brown: You're welcome. I would only take issue with one thing you said Mr. Kemery is that appropriate Civil Service action is an oxy-moron.

Mr. Kemery: Can't argue with you there.

Comm. Brown: We would pass this resolution with the stipulation that all the appropriate Civil Service paperwork is in and signed by the date so desired. You know better than I do, that's out of the control of our hands.

Mr. Kemery: Absolutely. I believe I understand this Fire District's concern's with regard to that transfer. I've attempted to address all of those subjects. If your Solicitor has done a review of that and if everything is deemed appropriate and you're comfortable with taking that action this evening, that would be appreciated. Again I apologize for not being able to get here earlier this evening and speak to you ahead of the meeting.

Comm. Flinn: I'm going to make a motion we accept John Rosado's transfer.

Comm. Brown: Motion made by Comm. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Chew. I'd like to ask the Solicitor whether or not Comm. Flinn should abstain on that motion.

Sol.Carlamere: I would say you should abstain.

Motion made by Comm. Chew, seconded by Funkhouser, provided all the appropriate Civil Service paperwork is done, signed, agreed to by everyone, there are no disputes about incomplete documentation and paperwork. Roll call vote, Comm. Chew, Funkhouser and Brown yes. Comm. Flinn abstained.

Mr. Kemery: Thank you Board members. I've made myself available to District 5 to see if they needed anything to be done with this and I similarly make myself available to District 6 so we can get this order of business taken care of. Thank you again.

Comm. Brown: You're welcome.

Closed Session – George Brown

Comm. Brown: At this time, the Board would like to go into Closed Session regarding a matter of Personnel. Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Chew. Roll call vote, all yes at 6:40 pm.

Open Session

Comm. Brown: Let the record show that the Board has come out of Closed Session to discuss a matter of Personnel at 6:48 pm, CS – 58.

Roll call commissioners, all present.

Comm. Brown: During the Closed Session, the Board discussed the Personnel matter regarding the Chief's short notice to take an examination. Because of the emergency nature of the issue that the test is the 20th of November, there was insufficient time to poll the other Board members about what action we should take as a Board. I took it upon myself to call the Solicitor and seek his advice and he agreed I should go and talk to Howard Long and this all happened in a matter of minutes. Howard Long did some research and issued an emergency request to postpone the test for the Chief this morning. I'm not sure we're going to hear back from him, but at least we gave it a shot.

First of all, I'd like a resolution of the Board authorizing the action that was taken thus far, and then I'll come back for a second.

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

Comm. Brown: Notwithstanding the outcome of the emergency request, that is, if the Chief has to take the exam and he takes the exam, if it was postponed, I'm asking for further resolution by the Board to authorize Mr. Long to do whatever research and/or necessary legal action is required to identify whether or not the information that was given to us is incorrect, and that information regarding the reason why the Chief could not be waived because he had to take a Battalion Chief's exam and Deputy Chief's exam. If the exam is waived, we're not going to pursue.

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

Adjourn – George Brown

Motion made by Comm. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Chew to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Roll call vote, all yes.