

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

Meeting Held: October 23, 2014
Meeting Place: Board Office
Meeting Called to Order: 6:35 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.

Comm. Brown: At this time, I would like to have a resolution to suspend the meeting and swear-in the new firefighters.

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

Chief Brezee: The Deputy Chief will bring each fellow up.

Dep.Chief Brown: A big thanks to all these guys for the hard work they put in. This process here, one of the things the Chief didn't say aside from the Academy is the culmination of hundreds of hours of effort by a lot of people. It starts off really at home with all of you, especially those who started out as Junior's for allowing us to have them to begin with, so thank you for that. Secondly, our Board of Fire Commissioners have been very supportive of the training for the District. All the rest of the Line Officer's, Lt. Powell, Ff. Philips, Ff. Greer and Ff. Nickelsberg are all here in attendance tonight, all in various stages of their training were really instrumental in helping get these guys to where they are today. So without further ado, we'll bring up:

Ff. Robert Schoonmaker	recruit #9002 will receive line #18
Ff. Dominic Paravati, Jr.	recruit #9004 will receive line #19
Ff. Joseph Blevins	recruit #9005 will receive line #20
Ff. James Evans	recruit #9007 will receive line #21

Sol.Carlamere swore-in the aforementioned Firefighter-candidates to Firefighters of the District. (applause)

Chief Brezee: The last thing I didn't mention is we will take their orange shield back from them, we will have them mounted on plaques and they will be given back to them at a later date so they can remember them.

Comm. Brown: Chief, you have cake and coffee for the visitors, so we are going to move the meeting back over across the hall. Anybody who wants to come into the meeting can come in. If you want to just stay for cake and coffee you can stay here. Thank you for coming everyone tonight and thank you for committing your son to the community.

Comm. Brown: Let the record show that it is 6:45 pm and we have moved the meeting from the Social Hall where we swore-in the new Firefighter's back to the Board's conference meeting room.

Roll call Commissioner: 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. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Annacone. Roll call vote, all yes.

Correspondence – Jeanette Cottone

Adm.CI.Cottone: Everything has been passed out.

Treasurer's Report – Rich Annacone

Audubon General Account	1,143,829.07
Audubon Payroll Account	19,722.16
Expenditures:	102,977.95
 TOTAL AMOUNT FOR APPROVAL	 102,977.95

Motion made by Comm. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Chew to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Adm.Ci.Cottone: Can I just interrupt on that? Comm. Funkhouser asked me about one bill because I didn't have an official invoice I didn't prepare the check for.

Comm. Funkhouser: I'm picking up our floor buffer. It came in from All Brand Supply Company that we discussed at our last meeting. It's in, we didn't get the paperwork out, \$720.00.

Comm. Flinn: Amend the motion to cover the floor buffer, seconded by Comm. Chew.

Comm. Brown: And that was approved at the last meeting?

Comm. Funkhouser: It was discussed and something put in last year's budget.

Motion made by Comm. Chew, seconded By Comm. Flinn to approve the Treasurer's Report with the check that just was discussed. Roll call vote, all yes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Computer Services – George Brown

Comm. Brown: The new server has been completely installed, the old one has been deactivated and we are now fully compliant with the law and we're actually there 6 months ahead of time which is an amazing thing, so that's been done.

Fire Prevention – George Brown

Comm. Brown: I'd like to thank the Chief, the Dep. Chief, the Officer's, the Volunteers, the Clerk, Kathy and Chris Rinaldi for a really great and fun filled Fire Prevention night, and it looked like it was going to rain any second. We had 1,100 through the door roughly and some other number out in the parking lot for a night where it had rained right up to the start time. I think we did really, really well. Chick-fil-a parachutes were a real hit, everybody is still talking about those still, so that was a good thing.

I'd like the Board to approve the authorization for two plaques...one for Lowes and one for Chick-fil-a thanking them for a great contribution.

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

Legal Liaison – George Brown

Comm. Brown: After several calls with the State, we've received the necessary paperwork to meet with our labor attorney regarding the Chief's contract. It's my hope that we can present the Chief's contract at our November meeting.

IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – George Brown

Comm. Brown: Comm. Annacone and myself met with the IAFF prior to this meeting this evening to open contract negotiations for the Firefighter's contract which expires on December 31, 2014.

Liaison to the Fire Company – George Brown

No report.

Apparatus – Joe Chew

Comm. Chew: We're currently awaiting the parts to come in for the Squad. Additionally we had a leak that is in the process of getting fixed. The Engine also had a leak that has been completed.

Budget Co-Commissioner – Joe Chew

Comm. Chew: I believe we are making progress on that. We're investigating what we need to investigate from an operations standpoint of it.

Fire Department Equipment – Joe Chew

No report.

Fire Department Operations – Joe Chew

Comm. Chew: The Chief's report was put out today. I will ask that once it's done that we make a motion to receive and approve the report.

Comm. Brown: I've read the Chief's Report, we can approve that right now.

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Flinn to approve the Chief's report.

Roll call vote, all yes.

Training – Joe Chew

Comm. Chew: We have one Firefighter that is in currently in an online class to get his Fire Inspector's license.

Budget Co-Commissioner – Rich Annacone

Comm. Annacone: The budget is in process.

IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – Rich Annacone

Comm. Annacone: We met for the contract. That was our first meeting tonight.

Personnel / Administration – Rich Annacone

No report.

Personnel / Operations – Rich Annacone

Comm. Annacone: We have one member who has applied for the Family Medical Leave Act from work. It's being investigated right now.

Comm. Brown: I think it should be in the public record that once again, our leaders in Trenton have figured out how to double the amount of work we're going to have to put in the budget this year, and that's three years going, so thank you very much.

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 floor buffer we discussed already and we got our supplies in.

I received some correspondence in regards to a communications site that would like to put a tower up on our property. My opinion is, I don't think it's a good idea. One, we don't have any space for a tower, but I just wanted to let the Board know that companies are trying to get our property for a tower which is an income for the department. I haven't investigated how much,. I was told it was a substantial amount, but I was also told by another company that has a tower on their property that it's really a pain to have on your property in regards to the company coming out all hours of the night working on them. I know one has a beeping sound that goes off every 10 minutes to keep the birds off of it. Like I said we don't have any area in our department here to put a tower up, I don't think but I'll put it up to the Board.

Comm. Brown: It's my opinion, and I'll hear what the other Board members have to say, but I think we have an obligation to investigate these kinds of things, especially if there are potential tax savings. We also have to bear in mind if there is any additional cost, but I think it's due diligence to be brought back and presented to the Board.

Comm. Chew: I have to agree with him.

Comm. Funkhouser: And that's from just one company, so I would have to find other companies who also put these towers up.

Comm. Flinn: They're looking to lease a piece of property from you, so they're the only company that's interested in your spot. So I would give them a call.

Comm. Flinn: They'll email you their whole plan.

Comm. Brown: Anything else? (hearing none)

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: I've submitted the basic numbers report. The only other thing, most of the past month was taken up with Fire Prevention. I'd like to thank George Brown and the Board's support with that. Once again I agree that it was a great job, our membership did a great job. I couldn't have been happier.

Comm. Brown: Also for the record, I can't thank Lowe's enough. They gave the kids all buckets, they're going to give us 500 smoke detectors to give out into the community.

Chief Brezee: For seven years, we've got a Manager who really cares.

Comm. Brown: Handed out a \$20 coupon off if you bought something for \$100 or more, gave 500 coloring books, they couldn't do enough. There were 1,000 kits for the kids to build, those wooden kits. So they really supported us in our efforts. Again, we can't thank them enough. I'm going to see if I can get him here when we get the plaque and present it. That was Comm. Chew's suggestion, so we'll see if we can work on that.

Solicitor – David Carlamere

Sol.Carlamere: Nothing to report except to the Commissioner, when you receive information from the cell tower they might send you a formed lease and if you want me to take a look at it, I will.

Resolutions – Jeanette Cottone

Adm.Ci.Cottone: Nothing this evening.

Old Business – George Brown

Comm. Brown: I have one Old Business item. I attempted to reach Carol Murphy today. She's in the legislative office to follow up on where we are with our Resolution that we sent over to her. She was out today, they promised they will have her call me back tomorrow. So I am following up on that monthly. It's on our Old Business until we get it resolved.

New Business – George Brown

Comm. Brown: I have one New Business item. Once again in the infinite wisdom of our local and state officials who made all the Fire Marshals who had the proper equipment to do fire investigations. That has been passed back to us. It is the Chief's responsibility and as a result of that, we have to go out and purchase the necessary equipment for the Chief to take pictures at scenes and do the fire investigation reports. The Chief has given me a list of what he needs and I started shopping on the internet. I'm estimating it's probably going to cost us in the \$2,000 range, maybe \$2,500. You just can't buy a camera, you've got to buy lenses and backup batteries and a case to hold it in, etc. etc. I would like the Board's permission to proceed with getting the Chief the equipment that he needs and that I will do everything I can to keep it under \$2,500.

Comm. Flinn: I make the motion we purchase it. I believe it comes out of the Fire Official's budget anyway, right Mike?

Chief Brezee: There is a line in there.

Comm. Brown: But it's not in the budget itself, so I think for that kind of money the Board should approve it.

Comm. Flinn: Did we earmark the check from the State that we usually get from the Township?

Adm.Ci.Cottone: SFS Grant?

Comm. Flinn: You can use that money. Every year we get it and it's not earmarked for anything.

Comm. Brown: I don't think there is any doubt where the funds are going to come from, it's just a question of whether or not the Board...

Motion made by Comm. Annacone, seconded by Comm. Flinn on purchasing the Chief his camera equipment. Roll call vote, all yes.

Public Portion – George Brown

Comm. Brown: At this time, we are going to open the meeting to the public. If you'd like to address the Board, please stand up, state your name and address.

Mr. Kibelstis: I talked to a couple of old fogies down in my development, and they were very impressed with the Fire Prevention thing down there. It was the first year they went there.

Comm. Funkhouser: Did they come on the bus?

Mr. Kibelstis: No, they had their walkers with them. But they really were very impressed with the Fire Prevention down there and all. The second question I have is, it seems like we're always talking about the Squad being repaired, the Squad being repaired. In the coming budget, is there any conversation going on about replacing Squad 866?

Chief Brezee: Yeah, there has been several meetings with the manufacturer. We got down to the basic of what we need and we're expecting to receive the price within a week, a ballpark price. We hope to get it into this year's upcoming budget.

Mr. Kibelstis: Fantastic, thank you.

Comm. Brown: One other thing too, again for the public record. Could you tell everybody what training you were at today?

Chief Brezee: Ebola.

Comm. Brown: OK. So there were some issues and some questions asked by both commissioners and outsiders about where we are, and I think you can say that we are at least getting in gear anyway. Anything else? (hearing none)

Closed Session – George Brown

n/a

Adjourn – George Brown

Motion made by Comm. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Annacone to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Roll call vote, all yes.