

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

**Meeting Held:** October 27, 2016  
**Meeting Place:** Board Office  
**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:30pm  
**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 are present. Comm. Annacone is excused this evening.

**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. Robinson. Roll call vote, all yes.

**Correspondence** – Jeanette Cottone

No report.

**Treasurer's Report** – Jeanette Cottone

10/27/2016:

Audubon General Account	2,075,526.45
Audubon Payroll Account	17,472.49
Expenditures:	66,147.13

TOTAL AMOUNT FOR APPROVAL      66,147.13

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget Co-Commissioner** – George Brown

No report.

**Computer Services** – George Brown

**Comm. Brown:** There will be new transformer installed in the building tomorrow morning. Since I am the son of an electrician, and we know that nothing could possibly go wrong, I want to power down and unplug all the computers in the building tonight. I'll be up in the morning to power everything else up.

**Fire Prevention** – George Brown

**Comm. Brown:** As the Chief indicated in his report, thanks to everyone for a great fire prevention night attendance...in the door was 962. Lowe's provided 1,000 buckets, so we know the attendance was higher than that...probably had 1,500 inside and out.

The Red Cross was very thankful, they signed up 23 people for the 11/9 blood drive.

**Chief Brezee:** I was very happy with fire prevention. Everything went well. This was our first year doing it on our own and there were no glitches, everything went great. The members performance was outstanding top to bottom. A lot of people come up to me, residents, citizens as well as our partners in fire and in public safety

### Fire Prevention, continued

and said what a great time it was and how happy they are they're invited. The apparatus attended from out of town was a little lighter than usual. But I attended several fire prevention's myself throughout the County, and that was kind of normal throughout the County that they were all a little light. So I don't think it was anything we did and I don't see a need for us to change anything. And we'll go right back at it again next year.

### Personnel / Administration – George Brown

**Comm. Brown:** Since Comm. Annacone is not here, I'll take some of his responsibility. First and foremost, we learned this week of the passing of William Hansche. He was a founding member of the Erial Fire Co., Fire District past Commissioner and past Chief. He made a big difference in the village of Erial. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends. If you're interested in the funeral arrangements, please see the Deputy Chief for details.

### IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – George Brown

**Comm. Brown:** The issue of the IAFF contracts, we're going to go into Closed at the end of the meeting just to discuss that and hopefully approve that.

### Legal Liaison – George Brown

No report.

### Liaison to the District Volunteers – George Brown

**Comm. Brown:** Any new members...anything to report?

**Dep. Chief Brown:** Not this month, but probably about 2-3 next month.

**Comm. Brown:** OK, great.

### Budget Co-Commissioner – George Brown

**Comm. Brown:** Comm. Annacone is not here. Just a note on the budget, and it's real simple. Let's get it done early because it seems like it was the advice we got last month and we're getting it from a number of people. If anybody needs help with your budget I'll provide the time. It's not as complex and daunting as it seems, and I'm just saying that to you Comm. Robinson because I remember the first couple of years, even as an accountant it took me a while to figure out what they were looking for, and it's much simpler than that. I think we need to have maybe a workshop. I'd like to try and keep the budget flat or relatively flat with all the other things going on in the Township this year, but we've got to do what we need to do to get our stuff done. Let's get on it early and not have a bunch of last-minute changes in the budget.

### IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – George Brown

Noted above.

### Personnel / Operations – George Brown

No report.

### Apparatus – Brian Robinson

**Comm. Robinson:** As far as apparatus, I'll defer to the Chief's Report. It looks like we sold 1, maybe 2?

**Chief Brezee:** Donated one, possible sold one.

**Comm. Robinson:** OK.

### Fire Department Equipment – Brian Robinson

**Comm. Robinson:** I know you gentlemen attended a convention last week and I'm sure you saw everything that's new and will bring back as far as equipment and new apparatus goes.

### Fire Department Operations – Brian Robinson

**Comm. Robinson:** Again, I'll defer to the Chief's Report.

### Training – Brian Robinson

**Comm. Robinson:** I'll defer to the Chief's Report.

### Insurance – George Flinn

No report.

### Sign – George Flinn

No report.

**Water – George Flinn**

No report.

**Building Maintenance & Grounds – Steve Funkhouser**

**Comm. Funkhouser:** You've already mentioned the transformer. I spoke to the fence guy this evening. He's already to get going on this. I'm supposed to meet up with him tomorrow in regards to going over what needs to be cleared out and if we've got to take anything out for him or what. We're going to have to pay half of the bill at first, but we discussed that and he said after the fence is completed that we can pay the bill for that which will probably be the end of November. I have the three quotes and this guy came in the lowest, South Jersey Fence and Railing.

The air conditioning units on the roof, we've got a couple issues with that right now, not sure exactly what we're going to do with the units. Don't know if we're going to the Insurance Co. with that, but we did get a quote from the heating and air conditioning fellow, and we were talking about possibly just putting one unit back up there because we don't need that much air conditioning. They put two huge units up there when they built that hall and that was catering for 250 people in the hall. We only need one unit up there. So he gave us a quote for units and he said cut that in half and add \$800 to that price because he'll have to do some work on closing off the air conditioning unit that's up there, they'll take that down.

**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's been submitted. We did announce the Hansche passing. One thing I'll note on that, and we all know we don't have a lot of memorabilia around the building. Two-three weeks ago, I spoke to Bill Hansche actually. He had called to let me know that he wasn't doing well with his health and that he had a lot of helmets that he collected over the years and asked if we were interested. I told him we were absolutely interested. His only wish is that they were not thrown into a closet and they were displayed. I would assure him absolutely, we would love anything you could give us because the volunteers are always asking me "don't we have anything to hang up from the old days", like every other firehouse we walk into. I did pick up the helmets and I got a couple pictures from him. I sat with his wife the other day for a half hour and spoke with her and she told me too that as she goes through the house and finds more, she'll definitely give me a call and pass those things on to us. That was pretty neat, I was kind of happy I got to talk to him three weeks ago because everything kind of went down pretty fast. And his wife's health was not wonderful either. She was actually in the hospital being prepped for surgery when he passed. So that's where we are with that.

In the comments as you saw, there are two things I'm looking to get approval on, being the SCBA grant and the donation of Engine 863 to the Coffee Station Fire Co. down in Texas. I was kind of going back and forth with Angel Ramirez who was the guy we dealt with before when we made equipment donations. He's put a lot of work into this. I spoke with the Chief of the Station, just to give you an idea, 31.2 square miles, 600 residents and no fire truck right now. The guys are running around with extinguishers in their pickup trucks. So he's very happy to possibly be receiving the truck. Angel has worked it out to get this truck to Texas at no cost to us or them. He understands some of the issues that are with the truck, he said he's got some guys down there some volunteer firemen who can fix anything. So he's really excited about it. He did send me through Angel a suggestion, the Hold Harmless Agreement that they've used several times with different departments and I sent that to you guys as well.

**Comm. Brown:** I read that and I have just one question for the Solicitor because I'd like to get that approved tonight because we've got a very busy month in front of us. The question I had is whether or not there is any liability while being transported to the District.

**Chief Brezee, continued**

**Chief Brezee:** I thought it was in there.

**Comm. Brown:** No, not on transportation. It's in there for use of the vehicle.

**Chief Brezee:** Upon receivership I thought.

**Sol.Carlamere:** It's a good point to raise, it can be referenced. You're indicating received by recipient with a full understanding of being delivered whereas...you might want to put that in there, we can do it again and see if we can put something in there.

**Comm. Brown:** Something real simple, but there really isn't anything. We should be held harmless from the minute it leaves us.

**Sol.Carlamere:** You just might put in there at time of delivery.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** I thought Angel was going to write up something in regards to that because they're the...

**Chief Brezee:** I believe the two of them put it together. This is one of the problems we have is, Angel was able to set up transportation of this but it probably needs to go within the next week. They have a lowboy going to Texas that they could put the fire truck on.

**Comm. Brown:** Just a simple sentence...The following will be in effect at the time of delivery to the delivering agent.

**Chief Brezee:** I don't think we'll have any problem with them. Maybe we update the document and send it to them and get them to sign it and send it back up.

**Comm. Brown:** Yep.

**Sol.Carlamere:** I'll give it to the Clerk.

Motion made by Comm Flinn, seconded by Comm. Funkhouser to make the donation. Roll call vote, all yes.

**Comm. Brown:** Thank you, that's a nice job. I think we should have two nights coming up, one when it leaves and one when the new one comes in.

**Chief Brezee:** I did, just so you know, I contacted two local brokers. The information was given to me that they are the top two in the area for selling trucks. They didn't call me back right away and I was told that's cause I left what type of truck and year and everything, they were totally not interested. Finally I just kept calling and said can you tell me what this thing is worth. And both came back with "not even \$1,000...you get more money to drive it into a scrap yard. And when you know there are fire departments in the United States that don't have a fire truck, how could you do such a thing.

**Comm. Brown:** I'm just wondering if we should put a couple cases of cream in the Engine when we send it down to them with coffee.

**Chief Brezee:** He actually asked if we could throw a couple firemen in the compartment and send them down. Our siren that was donated years ago is actually in this town, it's their tornado siren. It's gone off four or five times and all the town can hear it.

**Comm. Brown:** That's great, really nice job. I distracted you from the three points in your report. What's next?

**Chief Brezee:** The new Squad, we're pretty much right on schedule which does not make me happy because I don't want to go back to South Dakota in December, but it's looking like around that time we're going back to South Dakota. Everything is running smooth according to Spartan and they're looking at the end of November completion date and trip for the committee to go back down and do the final inspection. They're sending us pictures, a lot of you have seen them on Facebook, and we posted them so people can see them. They started sending pictures, everything is running smooth so far and we expect it to be done on time.

The last thing was the regional grant we applied for last year, unfortunately we were unsuccessful. All Districts involved decided to do it again this year and to increase our chances as a regional grant, we brought in Deptford and Lindenwold because that's one of the things we found out that the more towns is what they like to see. The grant is pretty much done by the committee. It's re-written, ready to go again, we just need the same MOU as we had in the past which I believe I attached as well. I'm just looking for your approval for me to sign it and get us on board. Our share is \$23,142.24 for 22 SCBA's and 22 cylinders. That's a bargain for us.

**Comm. Brown:** I have a question on that. What are the extra face plates that the other Districts were asking for?

**Chief Brezee:** Face pieces? What they are stating is, if you look at Chews Landing...so we'll get a face piece with each SCBA, they're stating that they have 35 + 17 pack qualified members.

**Comm. Brown:** OK, so each member gets one.

Motion made by Comm. Robinson, seconded by Comm. Funkhouser to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. Roll call vote, all yes.

**Solicitor – David Carlamere**

**Sol.Carlamere:** I have nothing to report.

## Resolutions – Jeanette Cottone

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

## Old Business – George Brown

**Comm. Brown:** The drug test issue is still open from several meetings ago. Comm. Annacone was working on that. If you recall, we had an issue with Virtua billing us a very large amount for a drug test back in the summer months. I've been told by the firefighter who was involved, Ff. Carosellio told me that his credit score has been fixed, so they did take care of that. We have not yet gotten a bill to the District for the remaining \$256.00. I sent them an email earlier this week, so hopefully we'll get that resolved in the next couple days and closed out by year end and get this off the Old Business issue.

## New Business – George Brown

**Comm. Brown:** Just a reminder, we have a blood drive on Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 7pm. As mentioned, the Red Cross has already signed up 23 people, so we could have a very large drive here based on what they do on line, they were pleased.

**Comm. Brown:** And back to Mr. Hansche. I've been approached by a number of people in the community, that a lot of the sections of Gloucester Township have a sign that was put up by public works...Historical Glendora or Historical Blackwood or whatever. The Chief told me that there was a sign up at one point and time and it said Welcome to the Historic Village of Erial. It was knocked down apparently by an automobile and was never re-put up by public works. And I'd like to make a recommendation and get approval by the Board that we use our sign out there rather than make public works do anything else because they're pretty busy. It just says Welcome to the Historic Village of Erial on the sign. It would be there permanently and would flip through all the other things that are up there. So the community wants to have some identity and I don't think there is anything wrong with that. We have the Erial baseball league, so why not add to the community spirit.

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Robinson to approve the permanent use of that particular set of words on the sign that will rotate through our other seasonal messages...Welcome to the Historic Village of Erial. Roll call vote, all yes.

## Public Portion – George Brown

**Ff. Schwegel:** Will my issue be discussed in Closed Session?

**Comm. Brown:** Yes it will, and we'll come out of Closed Session and let you know where we are there.

Motion made by Comm. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Funkhouser to have a special meeting on the evening of our next meeting which is November 15<sup>th</sup>. We will hold it prior to the regular meeting, so it will be at 6:30pm.

**Comm. Flinn:** What's the purpose of the meeting?

**Comm. Brown:** It's a special meeting at 6:30, then our regular meeting.

**Comm. Flinn:** What's the purpose of the meeting?

**Comm. Brown:** Because you have to when you're buying apparatus including command vehicles. You have to have a public meeting that's advertised 10 days in advance that's posted in 5 locations and that the public can vote on or against specifically on that topic.

**Adm.Ci.Cottone:** Special Election, so to speak.

**Sol.Carlamere:** The meeting is purposely held for a special voice election.

Roll call vote, all yes.

## Closed Session – George Brown

**Comm. Brown:** At this time, I'd like to go into Closed Session. There are a number of items, two of them involve personnel. And we'll come out of that and a third issue that we'll go back into Closed Session once we resolve those two.

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

## Open Session – Comm. Brown

**Comm. Brown:** OK, let the record show that at 7:08pm, the Board has gone back into Open Session to discuss two items discussed in Closed Session.

Roll call Commissioners, all present.

**Comm. Brown:** The first issue had to do with the IAFF contract and based on the signed Memorandum of Understanding, we want to approve that contract which is basically a 5 year deal with 2%. The MOU outlines the other issues, most of them were language changes and I went through those in Closed Session, the Commissioners all have a copy of that. So I'd like a motion to approve the contract. We need to clean up some of the incorrect language that somehow fell in there through word processing and not by either of the parties, and as soon as we get that done we'll ship that over to Mr. Kemery, hopefully in the next day or so.

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Robinson that we approve the contract.  
Roll call vote, Comm. Robinson, Funkhouser and Brown yes.

**Comm. Brown:** The second item had to do with Ff. Schwegel's request to transfer to District 5. He's present in the room at this time, we had him in the Closed Session. We certainly support Ff. Schwegel in whatever he would like to do in his career path. The original transfer was requested for January 1<sup>st</sup>. Given the fact that if we did that, we would be down to one career firefighter, and if he took any vacation or holidays or were sick, we'd be down to no career firefighters and that's not the intent of the District. We, therefore, asked Ff. Schwegel if he would be willing to accept a change in the transfer date to March 1<sup>st</sup> which he graciously agreed to. The Board will communicate the decision by District 6 to District 5 and explain it would leave us in a very difficult position, and we will do that within the next couple of days pending your approval. A motion to approve Ff. Schwegel's transfer effective on March 1<sup>st</sup> or whatever the first day of that work week would be. That we want to encourage his request, we want to thank you for your service here and for all the years that you've been here.

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

**Comm. Brown:** There is one other outstanding Closed Session item regarding a legal issue, and at this time I would like to ask the Solicitor and Comm. Flinn to leave the dais, and we'll take a 2 minute break.

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Robinson to go into Closed Session at 7:17pm.  
Roll call vote, all yes.

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Robinson to go back into Open Session.  
Roll call vote, all yes.

**Comm. Brown:** OK, at 7:22pm, the Board is going back into Open Session.  
Roll call, Comms. Funkhouser, Robinson and Brown are present.

**Comm. Brown:** During the second Closed Session, we discussed the appointment of the Parker McKay firm to represent us in the District 5 litigation, and we would like to have a motion to approve Parker McKay as the attorney's to represent us. The attorney will probably be the one we used in the catering lawsuit some years ago, Gene Mariano. But if he is not available, we have told them that they may supply an attorney from their staff.

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

#### **Adjourn – George Brown**

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Robinson to adjourn the meeting at 7:24pm.  
Roll call vote, all yes.

**Comm. Brown:** Thank you everyone.