

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

Meeting Held: September 24, 2015
Meeting Place: Board Office
Meeting Called to Order: 6:30pm
Members of Board Present: **Chairman** – George Brown
Vice Chairman – Joseph Chew, excused
Treasurer – Richard Annacone, excused
Secretary – George Flinn
Commissioner – Steven Funkhouser
Administrative Clerk – Jeanette Cottone
Solicitor – David Carlamere

Salute the Flag

Adm.Ci.Cottone: I believe we said in our notice of intent that we wanted to do the truck bid at 6:30pm.

Comm. Brown: Let's do the truck bid first if that's OK so we'll be in compliance.

Adm.Ci.Cottone: We just reviewed everything with the Solicitor. We did put the notice of intent in the paper as required to be advertised. There was a comment period that ended on September 22nd to the Board email address, and as of that date, there were not any comments received. We have received everything from Spartan that is required and the Solicitor reviewed their legal documents.

So I think administratively, we're OK. How about you on the contract?

Comm. Brown: I reviewed the contract, it was OK by me. I didn't know what the Solicitor's opinion was. I did get a comment from Comm. Chew today regarding the gallons permitted. But we have an agreement that before we're going to actually give them the signed contract, we'll clean up whatever those issues are, so I think we're OK to proceed, at least I feel confident that we're ready to proceed.

Chief Brezee: I do as well.

Comm. Brown: OK. So do we need to read that Resolution?

Adm.Ci.Cottone: I think before we do that, let's do the legal opening of the meeting because we advertised that this would be done at 6:30pm so you want to open it first.

Sol.Carlamere: Your regular meeting started at 6:30pm, so you can indicate that that's the first item on the agenda.

Adm.Ci.Cottone: OK, so with that being said, the Board will move on:

Resolution R-18-15. The Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District 6, Township of Gloucester, County of Camden NJ, authorizing the purchase of one Spartan Rescue Pumper to Spartan ERV, through participation in the Houston Galveston Area Council Cooperative, HGAC, a state approved national cooperative program. This was advertised as required, all the steps have been followed, and I believe we should include the amount. The purchase price is \$749,726.

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.

Commissioners:

Comms. Flinn, Funkhouser and Brown.

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Flinn to approve Resolution R-18-15.
Roll call vote, all yes.

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

Correspondence – Jeanette Cottone

Adm.Ci.Cottone: Correspondence has been distributed.

Treasurer's Report – Jeanette Cottone

As of 09/24/15:

Audubon General Account	1,680,423.87
Audubon Payroll Account	23,845.94
Expenditures:	46,935.07
TOTAL AMOUNT FOR APPROVAL	46,935.07

Comm. Brown: Question on the motion, are there any reimbursements?

Adm.CI.Cottone: Yes, to Comm. Brown a reimbursement for the Recruitment and Retention line item which is for the volunteers in the amount of \$223.

Comm. Brown: And that was for food after I think a fire we had on Garwood, one of those.

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Flinn 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: Just a reminder, the Fire Prevention is only a few weeks and a few days away, so let's get ready. Fire District 5 has appointed Dep. Chief Bill Larson as their Fire Prevention coordinator for the event. They'll meet with Lowes next week for the final plan.

IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – George Brown

No report.

Legal Liaison – George Brown

No report.

Liaison to the District Volunteers – George Brown

Comm. Brown: I attended the review, the department critique last night on two recent fires on Garwood Rd. and Highland Ave. I would really like to thank the Chief and Dep. Chief who did an excellent job last night. I think we set the crossbar at a new height for what other people need to be doing. My hat is really off to you. We've talked about that for a while, it finally happened and it was excellent. Both of you did a great job. You're a great tag-team match, thank you very much.

Chief Brezee: Thank you.

Dep.Chief Brown: Thank you.

Apparatus – Joe Chew

No 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: Jan did we get our paperwork for our check yet?

Adm.Ci.Cottone: No we did not.

Comm. Flinn: We were supposed to get that last Monday.

Adm.Ci.Cottone: And I spoke to Helen, then spoke to her a second time, so we're still waiting.

Comm. Flinn: OK.

Sign – George Flinn

No report.

Water – George Flinn

No report.

Photographer – George Flinn

No report.

Building Maintenance & Grounds – Steve Funkhouser

Comm. Funkhouser: I talked to the Chief in regards to the hall having the County company come in and do the mold testing. And I spoke to Jan this evening in regards to taking up the rest of the floor that's come up in there, the ones that are up because we have elections coming up shortly. So we can have those taken up and leave the other ones in there for now. If we think that the floor needs painting, the gray concrete, whatever you think we should do with that. That's it on the hall.

In regards to the generator, Mike I have a question on your report here. "The building generator will require the placement of a speed switch." Did they give you a price on the switch?

Adm.Ci.Cottone: I think its \$550 with labor.

Chief Brezee: \$550 with labor, and the part of course is not that expensive, but to get to is, much of the one side of the generator has to come apart. We received an initial that was \$700+ because they wanted to replace the battery, and once again I told them we are not paying over \$200 to have a \$50 battery replaced. We can do that ourselves.

Comm. Funkhouser: Right. What year is that generator?

Chief Brezee: 1995, and it's done well.

Comm. Funkhouser: OK, that's all I have to report.

Communications – Steve Funkhouser

No report.

EMS / Supplies & Equipment – Steve Funkhouser

No report.

Turn-Out Gear – Steve Funkhouser

No report.

Uniforms – Steve Funkhouser

No report.

Old Business – George Brown

Comm. Brown: The Volunteer Award process, we never named a nominee. Chief, if you could take a minute to re-think about what you wrote as to why you picked who you did to represent the District for this year's volunteer awarding.

Old Business – continued

Chief Brezee: What did you want?

Comm. Brown: Why you picked who I picked?

Chief Brezee: Why I picked who I picked? I felt before any of us currently serving within the Fire Department would go on a wall, that there are surviving members, founding members of the department. The gentleman we picked was interesting enough. I found when I was looking into things that when they decided and posted a piece of paper someone in this town that said we want to start a Fire Co. was the first man who signed it. He lives right across the street. I know for a fact that he dug the basement out of here, he help to build the first structure as well as all the additions that were put on. What's nice about having Vic over there is that when I have questions relating back, I can go over and he keeps me posted, he'll give me the information. When we tore this place apart to do the renovation in 1995, we found remnants of him all over the building. He would sign things and drop them in walls before they sealed them. When I started here, Vic's career at the Fire Dept. was kind of coming to an end. But I can tell you till this day, the man still walks around with his Erial Volunteer Fire jacket because he loves this place. When we called him to let him know what was going to go on, he actually kept calling me back to tell me this about the Fire Department and that about the Fire Department, and I just think Vic should be the first name that goes on to that wall. I went and looked at the wall, and I was a little thrown by some of the names that are on the other Fire Departments that none of their old timers are on there but their current people are on there and that's what bothered me. That's where I came up with this idea, I went to Dep. Chief Brown and we talked about it. That's where we're at.

Adm.Ci.Cottone: It's Vic Amoroso.

Comm. Brown: Right. My only comment is once again, it is now our burden that we have to teach other people around the Township what greatness is about, but so be it.

Chief Brezee: I don't believe this building or this Fire Co. would be here without Vic Amoroso.

Comm. Brown: Like I said, if we keep setting the bar a little higher each time, I think that's a great thing. My hat's off to you for that selection.

The other Old Business piece is, we finally, finally, finally have the P-Card implementation. I just ran the agreement for those people that will get a P-Card before the Solicitor last week. He recommended a change in the language and to keep it real simple, the first paragraph – this is the agreement for the people that get a card. It says

“You're hereby delegated to purchase goods and services using the Gloucester Township Fire District 6 Procurement Card issued by (us), the purchase may not exceed \$2,500 in value for a single transaction for purchases, and \$5,000 total in any billing cycle. Purchases greater than \$2,500 require quotes. The Commissioner responsible for the budget to which the purchase will be charged must approve the purchase prior to the purchase.”

I think that was the Solicitor's intent, a little wordsmithing, but I think it's a little less legal and a little more understanding. Any questions on that? (hearing none) I'd like a motion that we accept this document so we can grant the cards. Again, the purpose behind this is to make us be a little more agile, get some cash back for the District and make us write a few less checks. So motion to approve this.

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

New Business – George Brown

Comm. Brown: New Business? (hearing none)

Chief – Michael Brezee

Chief Brezee: My reports been submitted. One thing did resolve after the report was written and that was last month I attended the AFG Grant workshops, and I wound up when I got there sitting with most of the guys from Gloucester Township, and we all kind of went “why aren't we doing the regional grant? We're seeing others getting regional grants.” So Billy Robb from District 2 kind of took the lead, got everybody in play, and we're looking to, I want to get you're approval to jump in on the Regional Grant. It will be for SCBA's, and our share would be 5% if we were awarded. Our share would be 5% of the SCBA's that we receive. All the SCBA's we have out there now, most of them, we received a grant on them about 10 years ago. There have been two NFPA changes that SCBA's making them better and safer since then. We'd like to try and get everybody in the whole Township at the same time switched over to new SCBA, so if you have to grab one off of someone else's truck, it's the same as what's on your truck. So I'll leave that to you, as well as we can get in on a Regional Grant, we can also still request our own grant for our department. And I'd like to try and go for a new air system on that. Again, we would be responsible for 5% of that cost, but I think the last time we priced the air system, it was in

Chief – continued

between \$40-50,000. If we can get one at 5% of that, it's a win-win.

Comm. Brown: You can almost get a salary increase based on that.

Chief Brezee: Yep. So with your approval, I'd like to move forward on both grants.

Motion made by Comm. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Funkhouser to proceed with the Regional Grant requesting both SCBA's and a Refill Station with a maximum cost to us of 5% of what is awarded. Roll call vote, all yes.

Comm. Funkhouser: Question. If everybody goes with SCBA's, do we know how much of a grant you can get for that to total out?

Chief Brezee: It's substantial, but even if everybody who gets into it, I don't know that there's any limit on that. If there is a limit, it's higher than all of us wanting to get all new SCBA's.

Comm. Brown: I don't recall seeing a limit when we looked at it a few years back.

Chief Brezee: I'll tell you what they will do and they did it to us in the last grant was, when we got approved for the SCBA's, the initial price I gave them, they came back and said we know for a fact that if you go here you can get them for this much which is a little less, so that's what we're giving you for each SCBA. All I did was call our supplier at that time and go, look this is what AFG just told me, and they went "OK, we'll honor that price." They will check to make sure that we're only getting as many SCBA's as we have riding seats for, they do a pretty good job at that.

Comm. Funkhouser: OK.

Chief Brezee: The other thing I wanted to report on, it's in my report, but again I cannot be prouder. These dwelling fires...they went down on volunteer days for the most part, and it's proved to us that the training and the hard work is starting to pay off. Our crews operated flawlessly. I know that I could leave the country if I had to, and leave the town to Dep. Chief Brown. I can't tell you how many compliments I've received from Chief's around the town on his operations on those two jobs. It just makes me feel good that what we're doing is working, and it's been proven to us in those two jobs. We appreciate the help the Commissioners are providing when they come out to the jobs. A lot of guys don't want to see you out there, I have no problem with it any time, any time. You're there for us if we need something and we understand that and appreciate it, but again, our firefighters are just...we have a young group, not aggressive as some other departments around us, and I'm fine with that.

Comm. Brown: But more responsible.

Chief Brezee: They are operating flawlessly. They're responsible, and if they do make a mistake they own it, they want to learn how to fix it. I couldn't be happier, they're great. And I think that's all I have.

Comm. Brown: And again I'll second that, I told you a couple times personally, I think you've done a wonderful job. When I look back over the years that I've been here where we came from and where we are now and where we can go, I really appreciate it.

Chief Brezee: Thank you.

Solicitor – David Carlamere

Sol.Carlamere: Nothing to report.

Resolutions – Jeanette Cottone

Noted above, R-18-15.

Public Portion – George Brown

Mr. Kibelstis: Just one thing listening about Mr. Amoroso, just putting his name up, if you wanted to give him something I was just thinking maybe a new jacket to replace the one he's still wearing with the old volunteer. It may be worn out by now.

Comm. Brown: Not a bad idea, I think it's a great idea. A first awardee jacket or something. Based on what you wrote and everybody will see that on presentation day, it's quite a statement for his contribution to the community.

Mr. Kibelstis: It's nice to say "what have you done for me lately", this is a way of recognizing somebody that had done things before, and you're still recognizing him. Very good.

Chief Brezee: His family is just ecstatic that we're doing this and he's here to receive it.

Comm. Brown: And he's what, 87 or so.

Comm. Flinn: Somebody handle that jacket, we'll figure it out.

Comm. Brown: OK. Anything else? (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 6:51pm.
Roll call vote, all yes.