

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

Meeting Held: November 14, 2017
Meeting Place: Board Office
Meeting Called to Order: 6:30pm
Members of Board Present: **Chairman** – George Brown
Vice Chairman – Richard Annacone
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:

All present.

Comm. Brown: I'd like to suspend the normal agenda for the moment so that we can have some special events and swearing in this evening.

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

Swearing-In & Recognition – Chief Brezee:

Comm. Brown: Before we start, I'd like to recognize some people who are here, Mr. Kemery from the IAFF. This is a very special night. We're going to swear-in some new Firefighters. It's taken us a long time to get here, but we're here.

Chief Brezee: For those of you who don't know me, my name is Chief Mike Brezee, with me my Deputy Chief Chris Brown. It's an exciting time for us, I'm not sure how many years now, but we finally got our permanent career Firefighters on, and tonight we want to start off with swearing them in. We also have some achievement awards that we have to give out that we missed because we've been so busy hiring firefighters and buying firetrucks. We missed our annual Firefighters of the Year, Member of the Year for 2016 and we'll handle them tonight as well. With the Solicitor's help, I'll ask the two career Firefighters, Brian Gomez and Tom Kenny, come up front. We're also going to swear-in a new Officer tonight. Tom was a volunteer with us for many years. He was the Captain of the Station within the volunteer ranks, and before 5 minutes ago, Chris and I were the only ones who know that we're making a promotion to Captain tonight. If Derek Kramer would come up and swear in as our new Captain.

Sol.Carlamere swore in Firefighters Brian Gomez and Tom Kenny as Firefighters of GTFD-6
Congratulations. (applause) The Firefighter badges were put on the Firefighters.

Chief Brezee: As I mentioned, Tom was past Captain within the Volunteer ranks and as a sign of appreciation, we took the frontice off of his Volunteer helmet and we had it mounted on a plaque which reads "To Thomas Kenny, in appreciation of your years of service as Fire Captain for GTFD-6, November 14, 2017. (applause)

Chief Brezee: Those of you who have been here before and those who are not sure, once you join the Fire Company, you then have to go through a Firefighter 1 program. After you complete the program or you already come to us Firefighter 1 certified, we still require you to go through our testing on our equipment under our rules and regulations. Generally, it could take you six months to a year to get through this process and get rid of what we call our probie shield. It's bright orange and lets everybody to know to keep an eye out, we don't know

Swearing-In & Recognition – continued

about him yet. So as the Firefighters complete that training and test out and are successful, we then have their orange shield mounted on a plaque and they receive a black shield like everyone else. Right now I have William Boyd. Boyd came to us as a certified Firefighter from the Pine Hill Fire Department. As I explained he had to make it through our testing which he satisfactorily did. So tonight I present you with your plaque in recognition of completing your probationary period, GTFD-6 November 14, 2017.

Chief Brezee: I took over as Chief three years ago; it was kind of our re-birth here. The first thing I did was make Chris my Deputy Chief and we laid out how we were going to do things, which included that probationary period, and one of our big goals was to bring Junior members in. The first to come in was Nicholas Zizzamia. Nick, over this past year has completed his FF1 training as well as his in-house, and it's special for us because he started as a 16 year old Junior. So Nick is receiving his Junior and his probationary shield and now has a black frontice and congratulations on that accomplishment Nick. (applause)

Chief Brezee: The next two awards, we usually do these in March, but as I mentioned, the fire truck was purchased and hiring new firefighters. Some things got pushed back, so tonight's the night to get this done. What we do is give out a Member of the Year and Firefighter of the Year. Generally the Member of the Year is maybe not the person that's on the fire truck the most or on the most fires, but does so much around the Station that it makes a difference to us. The gentleman who is going to take it this year, I see him 4-5 times a week at the Station. He's always here, he's always working, always doing something to make the fire house better and make things better here for the other members, and we love him for it. And an interesting note, this will be his second year in a row, so if Derek Kramer would come up. (applause)

Derek gets another one of these to take home, and I'm sure his wife's like OK. This is for you, congratulations, we really appreciate everything you do for us around here, and it shows. (applause)

Chief Brezee: Now for Firefighter of the Year, it's also not always the person who's on the most fires, but this particular person, although he wasn't on the fire truck the most, he makes the important ones, he made important ones and made a difference on those calls. He also, in the purchase of that new Fire Apparatus out there, did a lot of leg work. When we buy a fire truck, it's not like buying a car where you see all these models and you pick one, we build a fire truck from the ground up. We set all the specifications of that truck. And although I sit down and tell these guys what I want, somebody has to do all the leg work and research and all the tedious stuff to get this truck on to print and on to a factory floor and built and brought to us, and we really could not have done it without him. There is a joke around here that if somebody says "your new truck is beautiful", I say thank you. If they say "I don't like this or that", I blame Tom. So if Tom (Kenny) would come up. (applause)

Chief Brezee: That sir is all we have.

Comm. Brown: I'd like to just comment on your rebirth of the Department 3 years ago, you've done a great job. (applause)

Chief Brezee: Please help yourselves to the food we have here, and please eat some cake. All yours Mr. Chairman.

Comm. Brown: At this point, we'd like to take a 10 minute recess to meet with Mr. Kemery and have the official signing of the new contract. I'd like the Commissioners to stand by and we can go across the hall.

Regular Meeting – Comm. Brown

Comm. Brown: Let the record show that the Board has moved over to the regular conference room and re-adjourned at 6:55pm. 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. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Annacone. Roll call vote, all yes.

Correspondence – Jeanette Cottone

Adm.Cl.Cottone: We did receive a thank you note from the Norcross family for the flowers we sent for a Life Member passing, Bill Norcross, Sr.

Comm. Brown: Thanks for doing that.

Treasurer’s Report – Rich Annacone

Audubon General Account	1,524,979.81
Audubon Payroll Account	34,820.92
Expenditures: 11/14/17	68,441.64

Comm. Annacone: And an addition of \$2,984.50 that’s going to be paid out tomorrow which is half the payment for new furniture for the Chief’s office.

TOTAL AMOUNT FOR APPROVAL 71,426.14

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Co-Commissioner – George Brown

Comm. Brown: Alright guys, budget hats on, next meeting let’s get them in. Let’s not make it a last minute thing.

Adm.Cl.Cottone: At the next meeting it has to be approved.

Comm. Brown: I know but I’m saying we’ve got to get it approved.

Adm.Cl.Cottone: Oh ok, you scared me there.

Computer Services – George Brown

Comm. Brown: We’d like to get the Chief a new laptop, there is money in the budget to do that. I’d like to get him one so he can stop writing everything on 3x5 cards.

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

Fire Prevention – George Brown

No report.

IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – George Brown

Comm. Brown: Let the record show that both the President of the IAFF, the Shop Steward and the Commissioner of Personnel just signed the IAFF contract going through 2019. I’d like to thank everybody for their hard work, it took us a long time but I think we got a good agreement and we don’t have to deal with that for the rest of my term, so I’d like to pass this Resolution R-21-17 and ask the Commissioner of Personnel to sign that.

Legal Liaison – George Brown

No report.

Liaison to the District Volunteers – George Brown

Dep. Chief Brown: We hit that all out of the park earlier.

Budget Co-Commissioner – Rich Annacone

No report.

IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – Rich Annacone

Comm. Annacone: The contract is now signed.

Personnel / Administration – Rich Annacone

Comm. Robinson: I do have something for Closed Session.

Personnel / Operations – Rich Annacone

No report.

Apparatus – Brian Robinson

Comm. Robinson: The new truck is in service. Last I heard, everything is going well with it. They happened to be in my backyard for a brush fire. And the new personnel are working out fine. That's all I have.

Fire Department Equipment – Brian Robinson

No report.

Fire Department Operations – Brian Robinson

No report.

Training – Brian Robinson

No report.

Insurance – George Flinn

Adm.Cl.Cottone: The Chief and I have the Resolution to do for the JIF membership which has to be completed and turned in. So basically, it's completed every three years. It accepts Michael Brezee as the Local Unit Fund Commissioner who is authorized to execute and renew the indemnifying trust agreement for the JIF Insurance January 2018 – January 2021.

Motion made by Comm. Robinson, seconded by Comm. Annacone to approve the Resolution for the JIF.
Roll call vote, all yes.

Sign – George Flinn

No report.

Water – George Flinn

No report.

Building Maintenance & Grounds – Steve Funkhouser

Comm. Funkhouser: We had the light repaired in the stairwell, thank you Chief for taking care of that. That's all I have on my report.

Comm. Flinn: Steve, what do we have in Building...can we replace that heater? The one last week that we had to call for service.

Chief Brezee: He said the board needed a reset. He reset it and its working fine.

Comm. Funkhouser: He also mentioned to me that possibly we need to budget for a new heater for next year. This unit is nickel and diming us.

Chief Brezee: I would assume it's the last old one we had then.

Comm. Funkhouser: I'm pretty sure it is. I'm not sure what we have left in Building Maintenance.

Comm. Brown: It could probably wait till the new budget.

Comm. Funkhouser: Yeah, that's what I was thinking. 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: We pretty much did what needed to get done tonight. I'll be here tonight after the meeting. If any of the Commissioners need to contact me in reference to the budget, you know how to find me.

Dep.Chief Brown: Let me tack on to that because I forgot earlier. I submitted to the Clerk and the Chief a copy of the Volunteer Reimbursement check amounts and it's been distributed to all the Commissioners.

Comm. Brown: OK, so Chief, you approved that recommendation for the stipends?

Chief Brezee: Yes.

Comm. Brown: OK, so I would like a motion to approve the Chief's recommendation for the stipends.

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

Chief Brezee: And on November 26th, we'll be hosting the Relief Association meeting, light affair after.

Comm. Brown: OK. I heard some of the conversation as we were moving to the first part of the meeting, are we squared away on your furniture on what needs to be done there?

Chief Brezee: I think what I'll do there, we do have to get another quote, but its custom and I don't think anybody's going to be able to match it.

Comm. Brown: OK, and we're getting that because the amount is....

Sol.Carlamere: Are you in the quote range, you said \$6,000?

Comm. Brown: Yeah, but it's not going to cost us \$6,500, that was the gross price.

Chief Brezee: \$5,950.

Sol.Carlamere: So you don't have to wait another month, you can approve it condition upon the Chief bringing in another quote, and the lowest quote is the one to be awarded.

Comm. Brown: OK, so I'd like to have a motion to approve the Chief's furniture, pending another quote.

Comm. Annacone: I have a question because she's sending out the check tomorrow.

Adm.Cl.Cottone: Well, once he receives the quotes.

Chief Brezee: No, not till I get another quote.

Comm. Annacone: OK, that's what I'm asking.

Comm. Brown: OK, motion to approve the amount for the Chief office.

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

Solicitor – David Carlamere

Sol.Carlamere: Nothing to report.

Resolutions – Jeanette Cottone

Adm.Cl.Cottone: The Resolutions are finished for the evening.

Old Business – George Brown

No report.

New Business – George Brown

Comm. Brown: I skipped over last month, and I think most everybody knows it, but with the new ISO report, we improved our standing in the world. Chief, you did a great job on that also. Want to give a couple sentences on what happened there.

Chief Brezee: We went through the ISO, it's supposed to be every five years, and we were pushing seven. It was not our fault, it was ISO's fault, they couldn't get somebody to work our area, but several meetings, phone calls, hundreds of emails back and forth, rating our area as far as fire protection, what we can improve, what we can't. We did quite well to the fact that we were able to lower our rating from a 5.9 to a 4.5. That makes for better insurance rates for homeowners and business owners in the area. There are some things there is nothing we can do about it. We are not going to buy a \$1.2 million dollar truck to get an extra point, things like that. Any decrease in our number is a good thing because of insurance rates.

Comm. Brown: Again nice job Chief, thank you.

New Business – continued

Comm. Brown: I have one new issue, and that is the P-cards. We're at month 16, I figured it out today for the P-cards. It's the first time we've had any requests or changes or what not. I think it's been a very successful program. It certainly has been for me to not have to come in here every month with a bunch of reimbursements. I think we're more effective as a result of the P-cards. When we started the program we decided to start small and make sure that it worked well, and that if we could get through Audits and not have any exposure to abuse, I think we've proven that we could do that. I'd like to have the Board's authority to increase the P-card line of credit so that we can get more, especially this time of year. I won't know till I speak to the bank tomorrow what our credit limit is. I'm suspecting it's in really good shape. I would like to propose that we set the credit limit for all the cards at \$30,000, and a maximum on an individual card at \$7,500 assuming the bank will grant that, and I think they will. So I would like a resolution for me to contact Bank of America asking to increase our card in total, and the individual cards. That can be done literally with a phone call and a change in the computer.

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

Public Portion – George Brown

Comm. Brown: Public Portion? (hearing none)

Closed Session – George Brown

Motion made by Comm. Annacone, seconded by Comm. Flinn to go into Closed Session.
Roll call vote, all yes at 7:06pm.

Comm. Brown: Let the record show that we've come out of Closed Session at 7:14pm.
Roll call Commissioners, all present.

Comm. Brown: During the Closed Session, the Board discussed an item that's got longer whiskers on it than you can imagine. This has been going on for years. It's the sense of the Board to finally straighten this out, and that is regarding the healthcare benefits for retirees – the Chief and the Clerk (Chapter 48). It was the recommendation of the Commissioner of Personnel after extensive research and multiple answers from our friends up North that we go with a 0%, and we will do that. And it was a recommendation in Closed Session that the documents that support that decision be uniquely referenced in the minutes and be attached to the minutes, so that going forward should this issue come up again, it will be easy to trace how we got here and not like the three or four years it's taken us to get here.

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

RE: Resolution R-20-2017 A Resolution to adopt the provisions of Chapter 48 (N.J.S.A. 52:14.17.38)

Attached: Local Finance Notice 2011-20R - Specifically Pg. 8, Section 4a.

NJ Division of Pensions and Benefits – Resolution Addendum Instructions HR-0426-0610
#5 For items that are answered "Yes", indicate % the employer is paying (0% to 100%).

Adjourn – George Brown

Motion made by Comm. Annacone, seconded by Comm. Flinn to adjourn the meeting at 7:07pm.
Roll call vote, all yes.

