

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

**Meeting Held:** March 22, 2018  
**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.

**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. Robinson, seconded by Comm. Annacone. Roll call vote, all yes.

**Correspondence** – Jeanette Cottone  
n/a

**Treasurer’s Report** – Rich Annacone

Audubon General Account	1,834,193.13
Audubon Payroll Account	18,823.16
Expenditures: 03/22/18	19,598.74
TOTAL AMOUNT FOR APPROVAL	19,598.74

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget Co-Commissioner** – George Brown  
No report.

**Computer Services** – George Brown  
No report.

**Fire Prevention** – George Brown  
No report.

**IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner** – George Brown  
No report.

**Legal Liaison** – George Brown

**Comm. Brown:** I want to go into Closed Session, and after the meeting we’ll see what we can do about that issue.

**Liaison to the District Volunteers – George Brown**

**Comm. Brown:** Any new volunteers?

Dep. Chief Brown: No, not at this time.

**Comm. Brown:** I want to thank everybody, both volunteer and career wise for all the calls in 4 Nor'easters.

**Budget Co-Commissioner – Rich Annacone**

No report.

**IAFF Contracts Co-Commissioner – Rich Annacone**

**Comm. Annacone:** Just waiting on the legal opinion for the Chief's contract.

**Personnel / Administration – Rich Annacone**

No report.

**Personnel / Operations – Rich Annacone**

No report.

**Apparatus – Brian Robinson**

**Comm. Robinson:** I'm going to defer to the Chief for the apparatus report. I'm sure we'll discuss the gas issue.

**Fire Department Equipment – Brian Robinson**

**Comm. Robinson:** Progress from what I understand with the new air packs.

**Fire Department Operations – Brian Robinson**

No report.

**Training – Brian Robinson**

**Comm. Robinson:** It's up to date.

**Insurance – George Flinn**

No report.

**Sign – George Flinn**

No report.

**Water – George Flinn**

No report.

**Building Maintenance & Grounds – Steve Funkhouser**

**Comm. Funkhouser:** As the Chief reported in his report, they did some leak checking around the building and trying to patch up little leaks. There haven't been too many. Other than that, 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.

**Chief – Michael Brezee**

**Chief Brezee:** My report has been submitted. In reference to Comm. Robinson, there was a problem with 862 Seagrave. It went through serious diagnostic to the amount of up to around \$10,000 in diagnostic and repairs. It looks like it's going to be a fuel issue, dirty fuel, bad fuel. I'm not really positive which one they'll issue me a report at the end. The problem here is, in 2016 we had to replace the fuel tank on 866 which the suggestion was this could be a fuel issue as far as being dirty or water or whatever. They'll replace that to the tune of roughly \$5-7,000 that cost us in 2016 and like I said we're up to about \$10,000 with 862's issues which seem to be a fuel problem. We get our fuel from the Township and this is the second problem we've had here. I'm going to a face to face meeting with the other Chief's and question if anybody else is having fuel issues. I don't know if we can do anything about that. My only suggestion would be to start looking at a different fuel provider if this is going to be the case. If we go down there and test the fuel, I'm pretty sure it would pass most of the time, but a couple cheap deliveries and you see what it's done to us. So that's where we're at with it. It's taking a big hit to the line item for apparatus repair but that's a big hit. You don't expect something like this every other year, and I'll keep you posted as the truck moves along.

**Comm. Brown:** Do we know when the fuel filter was changed last?

**Chief Brezee:** On the apparatus? Every six months, more than they suggest.

**Comm. Brown:** So it's more than likely happened since the last...

**Chief Brezee:** There are rumors out there that others complained about the fuel, but I don't want to go on rumors, I want to get hard evidence and see what we have here.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** Are the fuel tanks regulated by the State?

**Chief Brezee:** I have no idea. Weights and measures they are, but I don't know how often they go through fuel testing or any of that. I'll call for a meeting with Public Works and bring the issue to them.

**Comm. Brown:** I'd like to know for \$10,000 what procedures they have in affect so that we can say it's not them, maybe it's the fuel vendor. If we're going to end up spending \$20,000 inside of two years, that's a lot of money.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** Do you have any fuel stations in the area that we could go to right now?

**Comm. Flinn:** Wawa, Mongan's does too.

**Chief Brezee:** We used to do Mongan's prior to the Township providing it. My question again is we have to find out if we purchase through Wawa or Mongan's, do we get tax exempt as we do now.

**Comm. Flinn:** We go to Mongan's and it is tax exempt. You have to call because they provide it for our generators and for the truck's 24 hours. The generator always runs out, so they come out when you call.

**Comm. Brown:** I believe I heard Wawa has a program for people who are tax exempt and it's on your card and they deduct it from the bill.

**Chief Brezee:** I'll check into that as well. Another thing with the Wawa that we learned again this weekend is no matter how bad the storm, they don't close.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** My thing is, I think we should stop using the fuel now if that's what we think it is.

It's an \$800,000 piece of apparatus. Why are we still going there, even though we don't know if it's the fuel, but if they're saying...

**Chief Brezee:** Two dirty fuel tanks in a matter of a couple years.

**Dep. Chief Brown:** Not every department in town uses that fuel either.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** So what does the Board think on that? Should we stop using the fuel for now...

**Comm. Annacone:** We can't till we get another provider. And \$10,000 sounds like a lot for diagnostic to find out you have bad fuel.

**Comm. Brown:** Not at \$167 an hour.

**Chief Brezee:** They've been diagnosing this for 3 months now, where the truck wound up at a freight liner. Campbell's is associated with Freight Liner. They kicked it over to Freight Liner, which last time we had EES as our vendor and they changed it up to Johnson & Towers because it's that much more in depth. Diagnostics is not cheap. The diagnostic we got from Freight Liner is not a cheap process.

**Comm. Brown:** The \$10,800 is in addition to what they already charged us for the last 3 months.

**Chief Brezee:** That was as of last week and they were figuring in the cleaning of the fuel tank and the lines. They called the other day and I pulled out the 2016 quote and started questioning things and let them know that I don't intend to go much higher.

**Comm. Annacone:** Were they able to test the fuel that's in the tank now?

**Chief Brezee:** They can just see that on how dirty it is.

**Comm. Brown:** But how is it getting by the filter?

**Chief Brezee:** Probably the finest particles.

**Comm. Brown:** OK. So I say for the first question we authorize the use of Wawa immediately.

**Chief – continued**

**Comm. Flinn:** Don't we have a card?

**Comm. Brown:** Use the P-card.

**Chief Brezee:** More so on that last question, they found build up in the fuel lines which is before it was even getting to the filters. It was clogging in the fuel line stopping the fuel flow. The motor is in good shape. They had a couple components they changed out because they found they were dirty so they were changed out, but the motor is in tip top shape now.

**Comm. Brown:** So it sounds like something that's been going on over time.

**Chief Brezee:** It's not going to happen overnight.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** The fuel lines...they're saying about the fuel lines.

**Chief Brezee:** They found a clog in them.

**Comm. Brown:** Does anybody know what a fuel test costs to sample fuel? Because I would suggest what we should do right away is get a fuel test on the Squad and see if it's got contaminated fuel in it, and it would help us identify if it's a long term condition that's going to take place or we got something that's going to affect...

**Comm. Robinson:** We have to agree because we might want to end it if we find out there is bad fuel.

Cherry Hill lost half a fleet in one day with one bad shipment of gas. It literally grounded half the cars.

**Comm. Brown:** I know bad fuel doesn't work in airplanes. So I would say there's got to be a lab that can give us whatever we've got to take to them, a quart or gallon or whatever we need to take.

**Comm. Robinson:** I'm more concerned if the new Squad has a tank full...

**Chief Brezee:** I'm not worried about the new Squad, I think it's a time issue talking to the mechanics. They were able to clean our tank. The tank on 862 was lined a little better. They were able to clean it and inspect the inside of the tank and said it still looks good. As opposed to 866, when that went down two years ago, the tank was actually rotting from the inside out. That is a water issue.

**Comm. Brown:** But the thing is this, if the contamination showed that it was in the new Squad, that would eliminate the age old problem. It's not old enough to have any issues.

**Comm. Annacone:** It's not having any problems with it. But put a bad batch of fuel..

**Comm. Brown:** What I'm hearing is, this is a problem that's being caused by a build up over time. That was the fact I heard. So my question is, is the current fuel that we're using that's in the new Squad, the first of a series of things that will happen over time. I'd like to know if we could say for certain that there are contaminants in that fuel, one could say it's got to go back to the fuel again. And if it does have contaminates in it, I would want it drained and have it switched to the new fuel right away.

**Comm. Flinn:** You could take a sample of it.

**Comm. Brown:** Right now we're not certain of anything here. What I'm trying to do is cut the problem in half and see if it has something to do with age only or something else.

**Chief Brezee:** I believe it's an age issue. I think it takes time to get where we are. The buildup they see in there is not going to happen in a few tanks of fuel. It takes time.

**Comm. Brown:** I would guess that because if it was in one tank of fuel it wouldn't start. So what I'm suspecting is something coming into the tank at the fueling location.

**Comm. Robinson:** It could be sediment at the bottom of the tank, when it hits a certain point you're sucking it up.

**Comm. Brown:** I would want to know if it was my \$800,000 vehicle if the fuel I just got is any good at all.

And if it cost me \$250 to find that out, I'd pay for it.

**Comm. Annacone:** So you're saying syphon out a gallon of gas and send it to a lab and see what we get.

**Chief Brezee:** And I've heard rumor that there is diesel, there's off road fuel. They kind of burn the same, but one is dirty, one's not. One is cheaper than the other.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** Is the Township's tank in ground or above ground.

**Chief Brezee:** I don't believe the Township is going to tell us if they had any issues with the fuel.

**Comm. Brown:** No, I don't think they will and I don't think we should depend on them. I think we need an independent lab to say look, that fuels bad.

**Chief Brezee:** We'll sample off of the pump as well.

**Comm. Brown:** OK, so that's issue one. Get a sample, send it out. And if it comes back and says there are contaminants in there we'll dump it. Also while we're doing that let's get the account set up at Wawa.

Apparently they have a way to identify everything you buy on certain cards as tax exempt. And the only reason I know that is because the post office fuels their trucks there.

**Comm. Flinn:** And they'll give you a card for every truck.

**Comm. Brown:** Anything else Chief:

**Chief Brezee:** That's it.

**Solicitor – David Carlamere**

**Sol.Carlamere:** Nothing to report, and sorry I'm a few minutes late.

**Comm. Brown:** No problem.

**Resolutions – Jeanette Cottone**

**Adm.Cl.Cottone:** Nothing this month.

**Old Business – George Brown**

**Comm. Brown:** Old Business? (hearing none)

**New Business – George Brown**

**Comm. Brown:** We would like to swear-in the two re-elected Commissioners that we forgot to do last month.

**Chief Brezee:** We were going to swear-in Jason our new firefighter as well, but he had his daughters Junior Prom tonight and I told him it was OK.

Sol.Carlamere swore-in George Flinn and Richard Annacone as Fire Commissioners.

Congratulations (applause)

**Comm. Brown:** The Chief and I have been attending two or three meetings with the Mayor regarding his desire to get a 24 hour truck out at the north and south end of town. The next meeting is on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:30pm. I think that we should have an alternate aside from myself in case I couldn't make it. And I know Comm. Robinson expressed some interest, I know Comm. Annacone expressed some interest. I don't know what the Board wants to do, if we want to appoint both of you. It seems like the other Districts are taking more than one Commissioner. I think you guys should tell me which one of you rather than me saying which one. So you want to be an alternate?

**Comm. Annacone:** Yeah, appoint us both and we'll be fine.

**Comm. Funkhouser:** Or appoint all of us, and if none of you can go I'll go, I don't care.

Motion made by Comm. Flinn, seconded by Comm. Funkhouser to appoint at least Comm. Robinson and Comm. Annacone as alternates to the Mayor's Council. 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. Robinson to discuss a labor issue. Comm. Flinn, you're excused. Roll call at 6:50pm. All yes.

**Comm. Brown:** Let the record show that we came out of Closed Session at 7:01pm.

Comms. Annacone, Funkhouser, Robinson and Brown are present. Comm. Flinn left for the evening.

**Comm. Brown:** During Closed Session, the Board discussed the Chief's contract, and it is the sense of the Board that we need to move this along, we're going to set a date for completion of 2 weeks from today, and I will speak to Mr. Long tomorrow to see that that gets done.

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

**Adjourn – George Brown**

Motion made by Comm. Funkhouser, seconded by Comm. Annacone. Roll call vote, all yes at 7:03pm.