

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2010

The meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1 was called to order by President JC Kenny at 7:00 P.M.

The Clerk read the "Open Meeting Act" requirements.

President JC Kenny led a pledge to the flag.

A moment of silence was observed for departed members.

ROLL CALL: Comm. JC Kenny, Patrick Kenny, Gould, Howell, Gardner: Present.
Attorney-Gregory Goodman & Clerk-John Ur: Present.

Comm. JC Kenny pointed out the emergency exits.

MOTION to accept the previous minutes of December 28, 2009 and January 11, 2010 as read made by Comm. Howell, seconded by Comm. Gould. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Comm. Gardner: Yes, Comm. Gould: Yes, Comm. Howell: Yes, Comm. JC Kenny: Yes, Comm. Patrick Kenny: Yes. All in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PERSONNEL: Comm. JC Kenny reported employees taking their normal time off and selecting vacations for 2010.

EQUIPMENT: Comm. Howell gave report. Engine 9 was sent to Campbell's because it kept stalling. It's been repaired and put back in service (engine oxygen sensor). Engine 11 had some minor repairs and is back in service. The back seat on the ladder truck broke and was sent to Campbell. Will be repaired under warranty. Battery replaced on 1-3-5. The nozzles and appliances have arrived and were placed on the apparatus by Capt. Moran.

PURCHASING: Comm. Patrick Kenny reported normal janitorial purchases for the month.

BUILDINGS: Comm. Patrick Kenny reported that Image First did the monthly laundry service. Bowco did monthly spray. Barrier Electric has started working on the solar panels. 401 cleaned up and installed shelving on 400 School St. Survivor Air & Fire conducted the annual fire inspection on the alarm panel. All career and volunteers had their PPE and FIT testing done. Any deficiencies in the gear are being processed and corrected. Full report to be given after completion. Motorola was in on Thursday and will be back on Friday and Monday to start gutting the radio room for the new radio system.

RADIOS: Comm. Patrick Kenny reported one radio out for repair.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU: Comm. Gould gave the reports for the month of January 2010 submitted by Fire Lt. Keith Repace, copies on file in the F.P.B. Complimented Fire Prevention for the clearing of snow around hydrants.

HYDRANTS: Comm. Gardner reported a meeting with the water company regarding the Upper Barron Ave. water pressure issue. They studied the idea we gave them and came up with approximately 10 different options. There is one going through the High School property that may get done faster and benefit the town and High School. Making progress and in the process of scheduling other meetings. There is a pre-construction meeting scheduled next week with the water company for the Elf Rd. project. Comm. Patrick Kenny asked when the hydrant on Rte. 35, by the High School will be fixed, due to a water main break. Comm. Gardner stated he will take care of.

SAFETY: Comm. Howell reported progress.

LIAISON TO FIRE CO: Comm. Gardner reported that at the Chief's request, he made a presentation on the dugout and asked the volunteers to get back to him. Hasn't heard anything. He will bring up again at next company meeting. He also discussed tuition reimbursement programs at the company meeting. Someone brought up that the town provides the same program and asked Greg Goodman to look into whether or not it's legal for us to do this on top of the town.

AWARDS: Comm. Gould reported progress.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS: Comm. JC Kenny reported that he spoke with Mr. Landolfi regarding the TriData study on the Districts #1 and #2 merger. Mr. Landolfi is working with TriData and pushing them to get the report. It's been almost two years. The town applied for the grant.

The report of PAYROLL and BILLS for January 2010:

Payroll: \$219,315.71 Bills: \$145,954.93

Comm. Patrick Kenny reported two add-on bills; General Graphics for roll call sheets not to exceed \$250. and Motorola for \$95,000., as per the contract

MOTION to accept the report of payroll and bills including the two add-on bills and to authorize checks made by Comm. Howell, seconded by Comm. Gould, all in favor except for Comm. Gardner and Comm. Patrick Kenny voting no on the Genova Burns #9960 bill for the sick time civil service inquiry. Comm. Patrick Kenny would like to discuss the Genova Burns bill further under Executive Session. Comm. Gardner questioned the overtime. It's almost doubled. Comm. Patrick Kenny stated that firefighters needed to get IMS 300. There were 5 or 6 guys who had to come in for 3 days overtime, to get certified.

TREASURER'S REPORT as of February 3, 2010, read by John Ur. (see attached).

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MOTION to accept the Treasurer's report as read by Comm. Howell, seconded by Comm. Gould, all in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS: John Ur reported that all communications were passed on to the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Greg Goodman reported two items for Executive Session; update on civil service and contract negotiations with the labor attorney.

Comm. JC Kenny reported that a copy of the contract has been emailed to everyone. Would like everyone to highlight any proposed changes and email back to Maria.

NEW BUSINESS: Comm. Patrick Kenny reported that the January 2010 Firefighters Exam announcement is out. Go to www.state.nj.us/csc to print out application. The application should be filled out and sent in with check or money order to the State. Has to be on-line. Do not have hard copies anymore. Comm. Gardner stated that the letter seems to indicate that hard copies will be sent out. Comm. Patrick Kenny reported a letter received from Councilman Greg Vacara regarding the Annual Mayor's Youth Volunteer Award. Passed it on to the Chief.

Comm. Gardner reported that he would like to avoid the expense of pagers in using text messaging in the new system. Comm. Patrick Kenny stated that some volunteers do not have cell phones and if the cell phone service goes down, then you have no paging system whatsoever. Some people do not have unlimited text messaging and may ask for reimbursement. The pagers should be the first line of defense and the cell phone second. Should not just rely on one. That's the best way to operate. The pagers are about \$400. each, which is the same as we pay now. Comm. Patrick Kenny stated that we cannot get on the Woodbridge Emergency Squad system. Comm. Gardner and Comm. Patrick Kenny discussed the internal CAD system and the external text messaging. Comm. Patrick Kenny spoke to Eddie Barrett. Eddie is going on vacation and when he gets back he would be glad to meet with us. Comm. Gardner asked the Board and Union to consider what other services could be provided under Interlocal Agreements.

MOTION to have the President sign a Columbia Bank letter to re-up the bond for use of the Verizon poles for the preemption lights, made by Comm. Patrick Kenny, seconded by Comm. Howell. All in favor.

Comm. JC Kenny reported that Delta Dental is up for renewal. Comm. Gardner suggested going month to month with Delta Dental to give us an opportunity to look at all of our insurance programs together to see if money can be saved. Comm. JC Kenny stated that would have to be negotiated with the Union.

MOTION to renew Delta Dental with the understanding that we may exercise our 60 day withdrawal, should we find a way to save money or come to an agreement with the Union, made by Comm. Howell, seconded by Comm. Gould. All in favor.

Comm. JC Kenny reported that Mr. Mitch has contacted the Clerk's office with regard to the upcoming 2/20/10 election and offered his services. Comm. Howell and Comm. Gould recommend utilizing his services. Comm. Gardner stated that he discussed with Maria the eligibility to vote in Sewaren, especially Old Rd. Comm. JC Kenny stated that he did explain to Mr. Mitch about blacking out names in the books and there will also be a map. Comm. Gardner recommended discussions with Mr. Mitch regarding the close of election, view counting of ballots, rules for machines. Comm. Howell stated that the problem last year was that we were forced to have paper ballots. The room had to be cleared and quiet. It was a huge task. This year with the machines, it will be a much more orderly, efficient and speedier process. Normally, we allow the Commissioners, the candidates and the poll clerks to come in the back room. Comm. JC Kenny will talk to Mr. Mitch tomorrow and will have an answer. He will send out a letter to all the candidates informing them and the Board members of Mr. Mitch's preferred method.

MOTION for the President to send a letter to Assemblymen Coughlin, Wisniewski and Senator Vitale asking for a legislation to be passed for the Fire District election to fall under Title 19, made by Comm. Patrick Kenny, seconded by Comm. Gould. All in favor.

MOTION to pay Mr. Mitch, the poll workers and Electec as in the past, made by Comm. Gould, seconded by Comm. Howell. All in favor.

Comm. Gardner asked about poll worker selection. Would like to see a new system in the future. The candidates should have some input. Maybe have the Board members submit names. Comm. Howell commented that the problem is not picking people, it's getting people. The reason that we use the same list year-in and year-out, is because they are qualified and experienced. They can move the process of voting along. They know what to do. Comm. JC Kenny stated that for the last 23 years, it has always been Board members. It can be changed. Comm. Gardner stated that it could be changed now. Title 40 gives great discretion on how the Board is run. Maria stated that the company charges per hour on machine training. Comm. Patrick Kenny stated that we are too far into the process to make changes this year and to go with the poll workers this year that we have used. Can come up with new rules and procedures for next year. Comm. Gardner stated that salaries for poll workers are higher now. Comm. Patrick Kenny stated that we pay \$150. and the town pays over \$200. Comm. Gardner would like each of the Board members to select poll workers.

MOTION to establish rules next year for the selection of poll workers, made by Comm. Howell, seconded by Comm. Gould. All in favor.

REMARKS, COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rob Foerch

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
January Calls	48	51
Y-T-D Calls	48	51

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2 calls into Port Reading.

John Vrtaric - commented on poll workers. Always use the same people. Should open to all First Ward. Asked about broken seat, purchase of gloves and helmets. Comm. Howell explained. Gloves are purchased by the case. They are expendable and replaceable. Always have a couple of helmets around in case one gets damaged. They are usually purchased when a new man comes in or if one breaks or gets damaged. Mr. Vrtaric questioned what gets done with old helmets, why not donate. Comm. Howell responded throw away if damaged or out-of-date. Comm. Patrick Kenny responded cannot give to someone if damaged or out-of-date. Comm. Patrick Kenny also gave cost savings on using leather boots as opposed to rubber boots. Bunker gear is good for 10 years. Comm. Howell stated that donating equipment is a very noble idea, but we would incur a liability. If we were to give our old equipment to someone and they got injured, they could come back and sue because we gave them outdated, uncertified protective gear. We do not do it to protect our taxpayers from lawsuits. Mr. Vrtaric asked about selling old equipment as is for \$1. Mr. Goodman stated that he would have to look into the liability of the Board selling outdated equipment. Mr. Vrtaric questioned #9975, and 1-3-5 repairs and total cost. Comm. Howell explained that the light bar was out on Engine 11, bulbs and sockets had to be replaced, the transfer valve broke and had to be replaced. The battery went dead on 1-3-5 (Capt.'s vehicle) and had to purchase new battery. The total of \$3,647. is for all the repairs on four different vehicles.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Comm. JC Kenny reported that there will be discussions with regard to legal matters on the civil service update, contract negotiations and Genova Burns.

MOTION IN by Comm. Gould, seconded by Comm. Howell, all in favor at 7:55 P.M.

MOTION OUT by Comm. Patrick Kenny, seconded by Comm. Howell, all in favor at 8:16 P.M.

Greg Goodman reported that during executive session discussed the following. He gave a civil service update. They advised the Board that it is improper to use sick time for personal business with a Cease and Desist Order. Contract negotiations are continuing with the labor attorney. There will be a motion to discuss with Port Reading in joining in a lawsuit against the County Board of Elections over the use of the machines. The Board authorized him to send a letter to Genova Burns requesting reimbursement of funds that the Commissioners have spent on the civil service sick time policy issue.

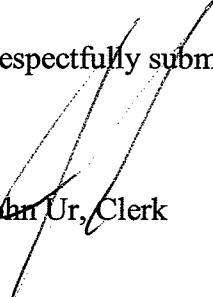
Comm. JC Kenny announced the election on 2/20/10 from 2 - 9 p.m. at The Sewaren Library on West Ave. and at the fire house on School St.

No further business to come before the Board.

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MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Comm. JC Kenny, seconded by Comm. Howell, all in favor at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



John Ur, Clerk

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THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT NO 1
MONTHLY BILL LIST
February 3, 2010

02/01/10

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Paid Amount
Unclassified				
01/12/2010	9950	Gregory Goodman, Esq	Professional Services Rendered - January 2010	-3,900.00
01/15/2010	9953	NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits	Claims Experience Report - #156200	-2,000.00
01/20/2010	9952	MAUREEN COMITO	To Replenish Petty Cash	-142.60
02/01/2010	9959	JOHN TAKACS CONSTRUCTION C...	Rent - 400 School Street & Back Garage - February 2010	-1,875.00
02/01/2010	9954	Catherine Crowe	Reimbursement - Health Coverage January 2010	-762.20
02/03/2010	9955	Airtec Service Inc	12 - Air Filters	-72.00
02/03/2010	9956	Alan Radio	Car #1-3-7 Install Floor Computer Mount	-80.00
02/03/2010	9958	Bowco Laboratories Inc	Regular Service - January 2010	-35.00
02/03/2010	9960	Genova, Burns, + Vernoia	Sick Time - Civil Service Inquiry	-1,286.26
02/03/2010	9961	Gregory Goodman, Esq	Professional Services Rendered - February 2010	-3,900.00
02/03/2010	9962	IDEARC MEDIA CORP	Advertising - Phone Book	-34.00
02/03/2010	9963	Image First	Laundry Service	-99.46
02/03/2010	9964	Madsen & Howell, Inc	Supplies	-541.67
02/03/2010	9965	MegaPath Inc	Account #25581	-196.01
02/03/2010	9966	Royal Battery	1 - 665MF Battery	-95.00
02/03/2010	9967	Stone Mountain Printing	500 - Vouchers	-29.50
02/03/2010	9968	TASC Fire Apparatus, Inc	Bunker Boots/Helmets/Gloves	-3,368.80
02/03/2010	9969	The Star Ledger	Account # XWOOD2393021 - January 2010 Meeting Date C...	-128.28
02/03/2010	9970	Township of Woodbridge-Comptrolle...	Fuel - December 2009	-1,348.11
02/03/2010	9971	United Computer Sales & Service, Inc	Monthly Customer Service - January 2010	-582.00
02/03/2010	9972	United Parcel Service	Account #XV0896	-2.77
02/03/2010	9973	Verizon Wireless - Laptop Modems	Account #982554463-00001 - Laptop Modems	-832.21
02/03/2010	9974	Aim Uniform	Uniform Purchase	-1,124.81
02/03/2010	9975	Campbell Supply, Inc	Repairs to Engine #11, Car #1-3-5, & Truck #6	-3,567.10
02/03/2010	9981	Delta Dental Plan of NJ	Group # 1063-00001 02/01/2010 TO 02/28/2010	-9,156.56
02/03/2010	9976	Free Public Library of Sewaren	Fire Election - February 20, 2010	-300.00
02/03/2010	9977	Home News + Tribune	Account#076094 - 2010 Budget	-88.73
02/03/2010	9978	Image First	Laundry Service	-99.46
02/03/2010	9980	John Ur	Monthly Fee - January 2010	-4,333.33
02/03/2010	9982	McNeil & Co., Inc.	Accident & Health Policy Renewal - 4th Installment	-1,729.25
02/03/2010	9983	Middlesex Cnty Prev & Protect Asstn	2010 Membership Dues	-375.00
02/03/2010	9984	NJ Motor Vehicle Commission	Registration Renewal 2002 Trailer	-23.00
02/03/2010	9985	Postmaster-Woodbridge	2 - Rolls of Stamps	-88.00
02/03/2010	9986	Sophie Bader	Reimbursement Health Benefits - January 2010	-419.88
02/03/2010	9987	Standard Insurance Company	Life Insurance - Policy #136829	-3,129.28
02/03/2010	TEPS	State of New Jersey- Health Benefits...	Retiree Health Benefits February 2010	-12,833.35
02/03/2010	TEPS	State of NJ- Health Benefits Fund	Health & Prescription Coverage -February 2010	-45,348.02
02/03/2010	9988	Survivor Fire & Security Systems, Inc	Kitchen Hood Inspection & Annual Fire Extinguisher Mainten...	-474.00
02/03/2010	9989	TASC Fire Apparatus, Inc	6 - Smith & Warren Rhodium Badges	-203.45
02/03/2010	9990	The Coffee Connection	12 - 5 Gallon Bottles	-78.00
02/03/2010	9991	Vision Service Plan	Vision Coverage February 2010 GRP# 120784800001	-1,127.75
02/03/2010	9992	AT&T	Long Distance - Clerk	-78.15
02/03/2010	9993	Verizon	Clerk/CAD/Fire Alarm	-162.35
02/03/2010	9994	AT&T	Long Distance - Landline	-35.59
02/03/2010	9995	Life Insurance Company Of North A...	Volunteer Life Insurance- Policy # GL-5474	-387.02
02/03/2010	9996	Lowe's	Supplies	-425.25
02/03/2010	9997	MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANYY	Hydrant Bill - January 1, 2010 to January 31, 2010	-35,169.21
02/03/2010	9998	PSE&G	Electric - School St & Back Garage	-158.85
02/03/2010	9999	Sears Commercial One	Plier & Screwdriver	-25.66
02/03/2010	10000	Strauss Discount Auto	Account # 98000055	-12.51
02/03/2010	10001	PSE&G	Electric - Firehouse	-1,281.10
02/03/2010	10002	Dorothy Wilcox	Reimbursement Health Benefits - January 2010	-419.88
02/03/2010	10003	Elizabethtown Gas	Account #2164284700 - Firehouse	-1,989.52
Total unclassified				-145,954.93
TOTAL				-145,954.93

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THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT NO 1

TREASURER'S REPORT

03-Feb-10

PREVIOUS BALANCE 01/11/10	\$ 2,590,286.88
DEPOSITS	21,939.08
PAYROLL AND RELATED TAXES	-142,988.26
CURRENT BILLS	<u>-145,954.93</u>
ENDING BALANCE 02/03/2010	\$ 2,323,282.77