

**October 19, 2022**

**Town Hall  
1766 Union Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Hazlet, NJ 07730**

The **REGULAR MEETING** was opened by **Chairman Parleman** at **7:30PM**. **Chairman Parleman** led the **PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**, followed by a **MOMENT OF SILENCE**. **Chairman Parleman** read the following statement:

In compliance with the **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT** of the State of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting was provided in the following manner:

On September 23, 2022, advance written notice of this meeting was posted at Town Hall, 1766 Union Avenue, Hazlet, NJ;

On September 23, 2022 advance written notice of this meeting was sent to the Asbury Park Press; and

On September 23, 2022, copies of the advance written notice were mailed to all persons who requested and paid for such notice.

I direct the Fire District Clerk to enter into the minutes this announcement and the advance written notice of this meeting.

**Chairman Parleman** called for a **ROLL CALL**:

Commissioner JJ Schroeck	- PRESENT
Commissioner JC Schroeck	- PRESENT
Commissioner Lopez	- PRESENT
Commissioner Parleman	- PRESENT
Commissioner Sheldrick	- PRESENT

Rich Braslow	- PRESENT (via zoom)
Neil Braslow	- PRESENT (via zoom)
Michelle Barney, QPA	- PRESENT
Frank Oliva, Jr., Secretary	- ABSENT

Also Present:

Capt. Rob Steiner	- for Township Chief Pat Wood
Edward Schmidt	- 1st Asst. Chief
Craig Spirko	- 2 <sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief
Steve Schmidt	- First Aid

**A MOTION to APPROVE the MINUTES of the WORKSHOP, REGULAR AND EXECUTIVE SESSION of the September 14, 2022 MEETING and the WORKSHOP and EXECUTIVE SESSION meeting on September 29, 2022 was offered by Commissioner JC Schroeck and seconded by Commissioner JJ Schroeck. All voted in favor. Comm. Lopez abstain.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Vehicle registrations to be given out to the chiefs.
- Recall for the Cummins Diesel engine
- Local Finance Board – adoptions of changes to QPA license including additional required CEU's and required notification to the contracting unit's auditor when there is a QPA vacancy.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Michelle met with the Accountant regarding the 2% cap and the Budget will be introduced at the November District meeting.
- Michelle has been working with the accountant for the budget and the local finance board keeps asking for more details to be added to the budget as it keeps getting stricter.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Commissioner Sheldrick presented the **ATTACHED FINANCIAL REPORTS** indicating account balances. Commissioner JC Schroeck **MOVED THE TREASURER'S REPORT BE APPROVED**. Commissioner Abe Lopez seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL voted in favor. Commissioner Sheldrick - Abstain**

Commissioner Sheldrick presented the **ATTACHED LIST of OPERATING ACCOUNT and FIRE BUREAU BILLS TO BE PAID**. Commissioner Abe Lopez moved the **OPERATING BILLS and FIRE BUREAU BILLS BE PAID**. Commissioner JJ Schroeck seconded the motion. **ALL voted in Favor.**

## **REQUISITIONS**

- Waiting on final requisition from the First Aid.

## **CHIEFS**

**Capt. Rob Steiner for Township Chief Pat Wood**

- 2-91 is out of Service.

**1st Assistant Chief Edward Schmidt, Jr.**

- 3-81 pump still has not been repaired.
- PM is trying to get scheduled. Will try next year to get all PM's done together.

**2nd Assistant Chief Craig Spirko**

- HFC parking lot is getting paved. 1-90 will be stationed at Station 2. 1-90 will be
- PM's for 1-77 and 1-76 are all done, laundry list of small repairs needed.
- Last fire went well, thanked all who showed up, all worked well together.
- Part still waiting to come in to repair the brush truck.

## **FIRE OFFICIAL THOMAS HORNER REPORT READ BY COMM. JC SCHROECK**

- CCO = year to date 419
- Comm. Year to date - 749
- Follow up - alarm at Angela's Pizza, the alarm was reset upon FD arrival. Owner was advised and label placed at alarm panel.
- Follow up - alarm at Panera Bread. Issues with same smoke head. Head to be relocated.
- Follow up - alarm system/panel at the Holiday Inn is going to be upgraded.
- New vehicle arrived - not in service yet, going out to be lettered.
- Fire Prevention supplies have been distributed to the schools. Plan is to go back to in person visits next year.
- Plan reviews - Grocery Outlet at old Aldi's in Hazlet Plaza. Construction has begun.

## **FIRST AID – STEVE SCHMIDT**

Progress

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Future Capital Purchase – met with the chiefs and the Board will present a resolution to have a hearing at the November meeting.

Michelle attended a webinar hosted by the Local Finance Board, DCA and the NJ Ethics Board regarding the budget and changes to the budget. Budget will continue to be uploaded. Comm. Parleman elaborated on this and also read from the Ethics Board code of ethics that for all general election and Fire District elections you cannot hold a position within the fire company. There is a list of positions available. Attorney Braslow discussed the current position of the Ethics committee.

Comm. Sheldrick spoke about some items that were posted to social media.

- The commissioners set the tax rate. No, the commissioners do not set the tax rate. The current tax rate is set by the county based on a formula. The current fire tax is determined from each taxed property in the township at the current rate of 0.074 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. If an assessed property value is \$300,000 your fire tax would be roughly \$222.
- The commissioners have secret meetings. No. per state rules all meetings must be published in a newspaper, be put on the District Website and be posted at the municipal building. Special meetings or special elections have stringent rules for advertising. Holding a secret meeting is punishable by being removed from the board and or fined,
- 38% stipend increase over the last 3 years. No. The commissioners do not get a stipend. They receive “commissioner compensation”. The commissioner compensation raise was 8.8% in 2020, 6.5% in 2021 and 3.69% in 2022, There is no increase for commissioners for the coming year 2023. A number of years ago the commissioners studied the rates to determine what fair compensation would be for the board, 10 fire districts in Monmouth County were used for comparison. Currently Hazlet is the 3rd lowest in the county. The county commissioner compensations are from a low of \$4,000 to a high of \$15,000.
- Censored Facebook Post. Yes we did delete a facebook post. At a public meeting we acknowledged and apologized for the deleted post. The post has been added back.
- The commissioners are not buying radios. No. We have been buying radios every year between 2019 and 2021 - 22 radios were purchased, in 2022 - 11 we’re purchased. Scheduled in 2023 we are to purchase 10 radios. 44 radios at a cost of well over \$250,000. This was a new budget line item added in 2020 for this purpose.
- The fire commissioners purchased the district office after 60% of voters voted against it. No. The vote was in 2020. The building was bought the next year, within legal statute. Out of 14,000 registered voters, 86 registered voters voted. 58 voted no. Since the defeat by only 58 votes the commissioners started to discuss the building in open workshop meetings In 2021. The privacy and safety of all the volunteers is very important. With no answer from the Township for secure and private office space the commissioners felt that a total of 86 votes was not representative of the people of the township. The commissioners decided to have a special “ legal and advertised meeting” and voted to move forward with leased office space with the option to buy with the intent of purchasing the building. The office was purchased in 2022, with no increase to the tax rate, no financing and not using future capital reserve.
- There is no planned long term capital spending plan. No The commissioners have held discussions with the chiefs and captains on apparatus replacement, SCBA replacement, gear replacement and other items.

## RESOLUTIONS

### 2022-018 2023 Board compensation

Commissioner JC Schroeck **MOVED TO APPROVE THE ABOVE RESOLUTION.** Commissioner Sheldrick seconded the motion. **ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.** No Oppose

**2022-019 Hearing for Capital Purchase to be held on Nov. 16, 2022**

**2022-020 Closed Session**

**2022-021 Authorizing a Merit Payment for the QPA**

Commissioner Sheldrick **MOVED TO APPROVE THE ABOVE RESOLUTIONS.** Commissioner JJ Schroeck seconded the motion. **ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. YES** No Oppose

**A motion is needed to Approve eligible LOSAP participants information submitted to the Board.**

A motion was made by Commissioner JJ Schroeck, seconded by Commissioner Lopez to Approve eligible LOSAP participants information submitted to the Board . **ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. YES** No Oppose

## **NEW APPLICATIONS**

NONE AT THIS TIME

**AT THIS POINT (8:08pm) the MEETING WAS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC.  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETING LAW, EACH MEMBER OF THE  
PUBLIC WILL BE GIVEN A MAXIMUM OF 3 MINUTES TO SPEAK.**

Michael Storks, 91 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Hazlet,

- The Board spoke about the Social media policy, not addressing it at this time, and haven't heard anything in the workshop meeting.
- Nothing heard about the follow up with Jason Martucci regarding the zoom meeting to the public, not just to the commissioners and the attorney.
- The workshop meeting was closed and it was stated by Comm. Schroeck to follow up with Comm. Parleman who wasn't at the meeting. Comm. Schroeck elaborated.
- September 14, the Board went into closed session to discuss capital purchases why wasn't that allowed in the open public meeting act.
- Fire prevention in the schools, is there a plan in effect. Comm. Schroeck elaborated.
- Asked about the commissioners raise in compensation. Michelle answered that question.

**AT THIS POINT (8:17pm) the MEETING WAS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

**AT THIS POINT (8:20pm), Commissioner Sheldrick MOVED TO GO TO EXECUTIVE SESSION,** Commissioner JC Schroeck seconded the motion. **ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.**

**AT THIS POINT (9:11pm) THE BOARD CAME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

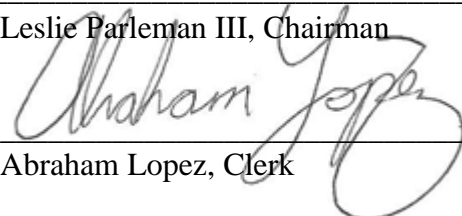
Commissioner JC Schroeck **MOVED TO APPROVE Coming out of Executive Session.** Comm. Lopez seconded the motion. **ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.** No Oppose

**At this point (9:13pm) Commissioner JC Schroeck MOVED THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED,** Commissioner JJ Schroeck seconded the motion. **ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.**

The next scheduled workshop meeting is November 9, 2022, starting at 6:30 pm.



Leslie Parleman III, Chairman



Abraham Lopez, Clerk