

**MEETING OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
STRATHMERE, UPPER TOWNSHIP, CAPE MAY COUNTY, NJ**

October 16, 2014 – 5:00 PM

PRESENT: Ken Weaver, Chairman, Presiding
Randy Roash, Vice Chairman
Donna Diefenderfer, Secretary
Karen Mitchell, Treasurer
Steve Nickelsberg
Michael J. Bohrer, Esq. CPA – Accountant

Bruce Riordan, Fire Chief

Ken called the meeting to order.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Karen moved to pay checks # 4602 to 4614
Steve seconded the motion.

The membership approved the minutes from September's meeting.

Mike asked the membership to answer some questions from a questionnaire that has to be completed and sent in with the budget for 2015.

Mike held a discussion on the budget history and comparison. He talked about the 2% cap which is the limit for raising taxes each year. He discussed budget increases of from ½ percent to 2 percent. Mike then talked about each line item for 2015 with a 2 percent increase. If we raise taxes two percent, that would mean an increase of about \$1,500 dollars. Ken suggested that with expenses continuing to increase, we should think about going for the two percent increase. Karen moved to approve a budget with a two percent increase for 2015. It was seconded and approved. The approved budget will be submitted to the State.

Our insurance increased about 2 thousand dollars in 2014. Randy looked into getting insurance reduced by going with another agency. After looking into other agencies he recommended that we stay with the agent we are currently using. Mike suggested that we can move money from the small operating equipment line item and put it in the insurance line item.

Mike then discussed the process of paying bills that we submit to him for payment. Before we give Mike any (unusual) bills to be paid, they are approved by either the Fire Chief or Ed Scanlon. Anything that is being ordered is discussed at our meetings. Bills are only given to Mike after we have received the item ordered. All checks for Fire Commission have to be signed by two commissioners and the Fire Company checks are signed by two officers.

Randy held a discussion about the safety issues on Commonwealth Avenue. He suggested that we write a letter from the Fire Company and Fire Commission and send it to the Township.

Mike reminded us that the \$50 thousand we have in the bank has to last us until April.

Mike offered a proposal to rehire him as our accountant. The Commission approved his rehiring.

Ken discussed donating \$300 dollars to the Fire Company to purchase a larger T.V. for the firehouse. When training videos are shown to the Fire Company or presentations made at Fishing Club and other organizations' meetings, it is very hard to see the T.V. from a distance. Karen moved to donate up to \$300 dollars and Steve seconded the motion. The Fire Company, Fishing Club and the Strathmere Improvement Association will all contribute up to \$300 dollars.

Karen moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Steve.

The next meeting will be held at the Firehouse at 5:00 pm on December 18, 2014

Respectfully Submitted
Donna Diefenderfer, Secretary