

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

March 15, 2018 – 5:00 PM

PRESIDING: Karen Mitchell, Chairman
Randy Roash, Vice Chairman
Donna Diefenderfer, Secretary
Steve Nickelsberg, Treasurer
Joe Boland
Cheryl Ward, CPA – Accountant

General Public: Bruce Riordan

Karen called the meeting to order.

Karen asked if there were any additions or deletion to last month's minutes. Then Karen asked for a motion to accept minutes from the January meeting. Joe made a motion to accept the minutes from the January meeting and Karen seconded the motion.

Karen then turned the meeting over to Cheryl, to do a financial report. The Fire Commission reviewed the bills prior to signing. Cheryl explained the bills and expenses were in line and consistent. Cheryl reported that we had \$19,876.57 in the checking account. And \$17,890.85 in our savings.

Joe made a motion to pay checks 5006 to 5025, seconded by Steve.

Donna Diefenderfer and Steve Nickelsburg were administered the oath as Strathmere Fire Commissioners.

Donna reported on the results of the Commissioners Elections.

Bruce reported that the order to purchase new radios is on hold until after Ocean City has there Mayoral elections.

Reorganization portion of the meeting: As part of the reorganization of the Commission, the officer's positions were discussed. Except for Vice Chairman, the Commissioners recommended all of the current officers stay in place for the upcoming year. Then Karen made the motion based on the recommendations of the Commissioners. After the discussion Randy made a motion to elect Joe Boland as Vice Chairman and Steve seconded the motion.

Karen made a motion to elect the following for office

Karen – Chairman
Joe Boland – Vice Chairman
Donna – Secretary
Steve – Treasurer

Steve seconded the motion.

Joe made motion to have John Batastini as our Attorney as needed, seconded by Steve.

Steve made motion to have Ken Yeutter as our Auditor, seconded by Joe.

Steve made motion to have the Herald as our newspaper, seconded by Randy.

Steve made motion to have the First Bank of Sea Isle as our bank, seconded by Randy.

All the votes were unanimous for the slate of officers and all the appointment.

Karen held a discussion on Cape May County Commonwealth Recreation Lane Project. Randy read a

letter from 2014 and an article from the Atlantic City Press. Talking about the safety and danger on Commonwealth. Karen read a letter she wrote in 2016 and talked about the lack of safety and danger on Commonwealth Ave. Karen also requested a potential bike land and asked that Strathmere residents be asked their opinions prior to decision being made.

Joe and Steve gave their opinions. Part of their concern, was that the proposed plan would shift traffic westerly, approximately 7 feet closer to the existing houses along Whale Beach. On the side of the street where the houses are, the current shoulder is proposed to become the southerly driving lane. This now leaves only 1 foot shoulder between driving land and front yards of the Whale Beach House's. Randy reported that Sallie Callahan, President of the Strathmere Fishing and Environmental Club and the SFEC Board voted to not engage or weigh in on political issues. The commissioners individually discussed the project. They recommended to the chairman that she compose a letter reflecting the Commission's view of the proposed project as it pertains to Public Safety. The Fire Commission recommended that the Fire Company also write a letter.

Next meeting will be June 21,2018 Strathmere Fire House 5pm

Steve moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Randy.

Respectfully Submitted
Donna Diefenderfer, Secretary