

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS,
TOWNSHIP OF UPPER; DISTRICT #1**

December 20, 2018

A meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Township of Upper, District #1 was held on December 20th, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at the Strathmere Volunteer Fire Company on Commonwealth Ave. in Strathmere, NJ.

Commissioners **Karen Mitchell**, **Joe Boland**, **Randy Roash**, **Donna Diefenderfer** and **Steve Nickelsberg** were present. Also present was **Cheryl Ward**, CPA, Accountant and Recording Secretary to the Board; **Bruce Riordan**, Chief of the Strathmere Volunteer Fire Company; **Lyn Tetteimer**, Treasurer of the Strathmere Volunteer Fire Company; **Ed Scanlon**, Lieutenant of the Strathmere Volunteer Fire Company; and **Christopher Mendieh**; Public.

The meeting was opened by **Karen Mitchell**, who read the appropriate notice in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey.

As the first order of business, the Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the prior meeting, held November 15, 2018.

Ms. Ward presented a Treasurer's Report, including checks to be signed and paid at this meeting, a review of utility expenses that are directly debited from the operating account, a review of cash-on-hand, and a discussion of year-to-date expenses relative to the budget.

The Board reviewed and approved a proposal from **Cheryl Ward**, CPA, to provide accounting services for the 2019 calendar year. The Board also reviewed and approved a proposal from **Kenneth Yeutter**, CPA, to conduct the required annual audit of the financial statements for the Board.

The Board made a motion to pass a resolution to adopt a temporary budget to provide for the period between the beginning of the fiscal year, January 1, 2019, and the adoption of the budget by the legal voters of the fire district, which election is scheduled for February 17, 2019. The resolution was unanimously approved.

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**December 20, 2018
(continued)**

The Board made a motion to pass a resolution to transfer line items in the 2018 budget from budget expenditures with excess funds to budget expenditures having deficits. The resolution was unanimously approved.

Whereas the Volunteer Fire Company has determined that a fire hydrant is necessary at the corner of Neptune and Winthrop, the Board made a motion to pass a resolution to install a new fire hydrant at that location. The resolution was unanimously approved. The Strathmere Fire Commission "rents" its fire hydrants from the New Jersey American Water Company. This additional fire hydrant will cause the "fire hydrant rental expense" to increase for 2019. This increase was considered and included in the 2019 budget.

During the past few meetings, the Board has had multiple conversations regarding the continuing financial strain that the Board is facing as a result of mandates that the fire companies must adhere to. These mandates are imposed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). These mandates are mostly in the form of "Safety Standards" that the fire companies must follow. Volunteer Fire Companies must follow the same standards that paid fire companies follow. Fire companies are "rated" based upon their compliance with these standards. Good ratings benefit individual homeowners because the rating directly impacts the cost of homeowners insurance. Therefore, individuals owning homes in cities or towns with better ratings will have lower homeowners insurance premiums than those owning homes in cities or towns with poor ratings.

Bruce Rioradan discussed a serious fire in Sea Isle City last month that the Strathmere Volunteer Fire Company was called to assist with. The Strathmere Board of Fire Commissioners and the Public would like to thank the Strathmere Volunteer Fire Company for their hard work and dedication all year long, but specifically with regard to the recent fire in Sea Isle City. The Fire Commission paid a \$1,000 expense to re-equip the fire truck with the foam that was used to fight the fire in Sea Isle City.

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December 20, 2018
(continued)

At the November meeting, the Board invited the Volunteer Fire Company to share, where appropriate, the financial position of the Fire Company, along with the immediate and long term needs of the Company. To that end, the Fire Company and Fire Commission agreed that the Chief of the Fire Company and the Chairman of the Commission will meet annually, in August, to discuss the budgetary needs of both the Fire Company and Commission. In the event that a large unexpected need arises during the year, a meeting between the Chief and Chairman will be arranged.

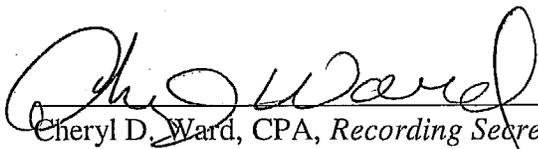
During the November meeting, **Steve Nickelsberg** agreed to research Solar options for the fire house. Steve has made some contacts but is still gathering the necessary information. He will have an update for the Board at a later meeting.

Bruce Riordan informed the Board that the Fire Company is in need of some medical supplies and radios, which require installation. The Board reviewed its budget and agreed to assist the Fire Company in paying for these items.

The Board reviewed and approved the schedule for the 2019 Board of Fire Commissioners meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.

There being no further business for the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Cheryl D. Ward, CPA, Recording Secretary

Approved and Submitted,


Karen Mitchell, Chairman