

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

January 17, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Township of Upper, District #1 was held on January 17, 2019 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 **Tonya DeVita**, Staff Accountant for Cheryl Ward, CPA, Accountant and Recording Secretary to the Board; and **Bruce Riordan**, Chief of the Strathmere Volunteer Fire Company.

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 December 20, 2018.

Ms. DeVita 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.

Bruce Rioradan gave the Chief's Report, discussing a serious fire at 49th & Central in Ocean City that the Strathmere Volunteer Fire Company was called to assist with. The Fire Company hooked into a hydrant on West Avenue and fed the Ocean City Ladder Truck. Bruce said he was personally thanked by the Ocean City Fire Chief for their assistance.

The Fire Company purchased a Generator which is now in service. This was made possible with a Federal FEMA Grant saving the taxpayers of Strathmere approximately \$30,000. The Fire Company was responsible for the foundation and a crane to lift the unit costing \$3,700.

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(continued)

The Chairman, **Karen Mitchell** and the Chief, **Bruce Rioradan** met in late December to discuss how the Commission and the Fire Company can work hand in hand to coordinate financing within the two organizations to reduce the financial strain on the Board due to mandated "Safety Standards" imposed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The Fire Company has agreed to support the Commission, just as it has in the past. The Chairman and Chief have agreed to meet quarterly to keep open communication of the Fire Companies immediate and long-term needs.

A motion was made by **Randy Roash** with all Board members in favor, that a new report be added to the meeting package. This spreadsheet will include Equipment needed, approximate cost of the purchase and how much the Board can afford to pay for said purchase.

Steve Nickelsberg reported that Solar is not an option for the fire house as commercial properties differ from residential and in the end the expense would not be worth the savings. The Fire Company has decided to swap out the lighting for new cost-efficient bulbs.

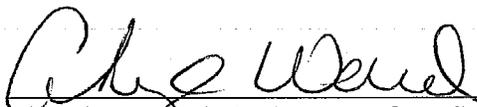
Bruce Riordan informed the Board that the Fire Company has retained a new member who previously was a paid fire fighter out of Vineland who is also an EMT and nurse. He comes to Strathmere with many years of experience. The Board was very grateful to have this new member join.

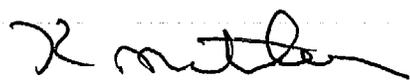
Donna Diefenderfer spoke about the election scheduled for February 16, 2019 from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the fire house.

There being no further business for the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved and Submitted,


Cheryl D. Ward, CPA, *Recording Secretary*


Karen Mitchell, *Chairman*