

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS,
TOWNSHIP OF UPPER; DISTRICT #3**

January 12, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Township of Upper, District #3 was held on January 12, 2026, at 5:15 p.m. at the Marmora Volunteer Fire Company on Old Tuckahoe Road in Marmora, NJ. Commissioners **Paul Hoster**, **Sean Whelan**, **Edwin Kooker**, and **Jeff Pierson, Jr.** were present. **Kurt Austin** attended via telephone. Also present were **Tonya DeVita** representative for **Cheryl Sayers, CPA**, Accountant and Recording Secretary to the Board along with **Mark Newman**, Deputy Chief of the Marmora Volunteer Fire Company and **Jon Batastini, Esq.** Counsel to the Board.

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

As the first order of regular business, the Board reviewed the minutes of the prior meeting, held October 20, 2025. **Paul Hoster** made a motion to accept the minutes as written. **Ed Kooker** seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Ms. DeVita presented a financial report, including a list of checks to be approved, signed, and distributed. **Sean Whelan** questioned the Comcast bill. Ms. Sayers office will investigate if there is an overpayment. Two small bills for Fred's Auto were given to Ms. DeVita to research whether they were previously paid. All were in favor of paying the bills as presented.

Mark Newman spoke about the Truck Committee taking a 4-hour drive to tour the truck facility. He and **Ed Kooker** went line by line on the new truck purchase. They added and subtracted approximately 150 items with a savings of \$1,800. The build time on the truck is 25-29 months. Mark also reported that the Burn Building has passed inspection. He presented a Year End Report, stating that the Marmora Volunteer Fire Company had 244 calls and over 1400 man hours. The report was given to **Jon Batastini** to scan and email to the Commissioners.

Robert Kennedy from the DCA contacted **Jon Batastini** to advise that in the future any up fit or outfitting of a truck would have to go to the taxpayers for approval as a Capital Purchase and not on the line item "Equipment". Mr. Newman and the Board have nothing planned for the near future. Mr. Batastini presented a sample ballot for the February election. After much discussion and the changes made, Mr. Batastini will amend the ballot for printing. The ballot will include the request for a \$3 million Tower Ladder.

At this meeting, the Board adopted the 2026 budget which includes a 2% increase from taxation, plus the new ratables and utilization of restricted fund balance for the down payment of the truck. All were in favor of the 2026 Budget as presented. The office of **Cheryl Sayers CPA PC** will complete the budget forms for submission to the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs.

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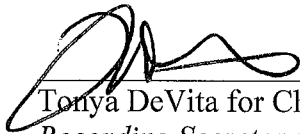
**January 12, 2026
(continued)**

Resolution 26-1 Budget Transfer was presented and approved by all to move money from the 2025 Budget line item Repairs and Maintenance Vehicle and Equipment to Equipment – Miscellaneous to bring that line item within budget.

Kurt Austin discussed the visit he and Jay Newman made to the local Motor Vehicle Commission to register all the Fire Department trucks. There are issues with MG (Municipal Government) versus NF (No Fee) tags since the DCA insisted the trucks be titled in the Commission name. Mr. Austin and Mr. Newman were told by the local office that they would need to go to Trenton. Mr. Austin requested the assistance of **Jon Batastini** in getting these trucks registered.

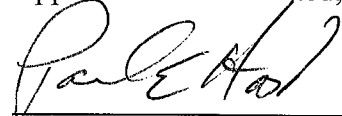
Ms. DeVita reminded the board that the next meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. at which time they will have the Re-Organization Meeting. There being no further business for the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tonya DeVita for Cheryl Sayers, CPA
Recording Secretary

Approved and Submitted,



Paul Hoster,
Chairperson