

# Hamilton Township Board of Fire Commissioners

## District #7

### Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by President John Marcucci followed by the flag salute

Roll Call: Present were Fred Zauner, Jered Hafitz, John Marcucci and Charles Belmont.

The President suspended the regular meeting format in order to hear the Auditors presentation of the amended audit, which was basically language changes, in order to comply with the D.C.A.. The Board then held a vote to accept the revised audit.

District #7 Board of Fire Commissioners Recorded Vote

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
John Marcucci	x					
Fred Zauner	x				x	
Adam Bendas				x		
Jered Hafitz	x					x
Charles Belmont	x					

The motion to accept the audit was passed.

The President then resumed the meeting's regular order of business.

The minutes of the previous meeting were then read. Motion by Jered Hafitz and seconded by Fred Zauner to accept the minutes as read. Motion passed.

**Chief's Report:** Chief Gribbin reported that there were 107 calls since the last meeting. He also reported that the new mutual aid compact has gone through two attorney reviews and all of the language issues have been cleared up. The big change was sharing of paid personnel which is legal to do. If a district needs to use another district's personnel, they would only be responsible for paying that employee's overtime. The compact will go to the Township Chiefs for their approval and then it will go to all of the Commissioner Boards. The Chief then said that prior to the 2015 budget, he will get together with Commissioner Zauner and go over the budget, line by line. He said one thing that came up in District's 3 and 4 is the replacement of the Chief's vehicle. He said the current vehicle would go over to District 3 for towing the boats and he will get prices for a Chevy Tahoe as a replacement. He was not asking for a Board decision at this time. The cost would be shared between districts 3, 4 and 7. He also reported that they are working on truck specs. in districts 3, 4 and 6. They are looking at a mid-mount tower in District 4. He said he didn't know what District 7's intentions were with their tower, but he would like to present those specs. to District 7 in case they are considering replacing their tower. He said he would like to keep all of the trucks basically the same. The Chief reported that some of the Captains have a problem with installing smoke detectors in private residences. He was asking for the Board's support in giving the Chief permission to enforce the policy for installing the detectors. The Board said that they are in favor of enforcing the policy as long as a waiver is signed by the resident against damages. President Marcucci asked the Chief if it was true that the tower was out of service for three days to have

tires replaced. The Chief said that the crew came to him and said they felt it was unsafe to drive the tower because metal was showing through on the tires. The Chief said that since the entire crew felt it was unsafe, he paced the tower out of service. President Marcucci said that this didn't happen overnight and said that someone is not doing their job when it comes to truck checks. He said this is totally unacceptable and someone should address the situation. Chief Gribbin said that he would address it. Chief Gribbin reported that the plates on the tower jacks also have to be replaced before the jacks are damaged. He said he would get prices on replacing them and talk to Commissioner Zauner since he is working on the budget at this time. A copy of the Chief's report is attached to the minutes.

**Fire Official's Report:** Scott McCormick reported that he attended the Septemberfest over the weekend and that our crew consisting of Jason Bergstrom and Ryan Schearer did an outstanding job. He said they compiled two full lists of residents who needed smoke detectors installed, replaced or batteries changed. He said they handed out a lot of fire prevention materials. He said they are in the process of scheduling all of the schools for fire prevention programs and are about halfway done. The Fire Prevention Open House will be Wednesday, October 15 at 6 p.m.. Scott said that he is in receipt of the signed copies of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Resolution from Fire District #8 for his services as Fire Official while their Official is on sick leave. He said he would also like to move forward with hiring another inspector for a total of three. He said he realizes it must go through Civil Service. Scott also said that he heard from the woman on the "All Hands" grant for the gym equipment. He said that they were impressed with our application and that we are #3 in line. Scott said that Hodnicki and Schearer wanted to get prices on repairing the universal equipment in the gym.

Scott also said that the drums on the copy machine are bad and it would cost \$1,400.00 to replace them. Scott said he spoke to Prior Nami about terminating our lease early and leasing a new machine. He said they are working on that. Scott said that the Chief is switching over to Firehouse on I-cloud which he believes would be Township wide. He said he did talk to the Firehouse guy about the inspection program. He said this would be beneficial with putting the three districts together and said we would probably have to budget for this. He said to transfer all of our data onto firehouse on the cloud would be about \$5,000.00. He also reported that education specialist Joe Earhardt is attending a Juvenile Fire Setter program at the National Academy. He said that everything was free except the meal ticket and wanted to know if there was money left in the budget to cover this. The cost is \$167.00. The Board instructed Scott to fund it out of petty cash. Scott said that he had spoken to Captain Retalis about attending the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice's "Basic Course for Fire Investigation". He said he spoke to a Sergeant from the Prosecutor's Office and he told Scott to get the application in. Scott then reported on a problem that he had at a gas station. He said that they had a spill and failed to call the fire department. He said that he fined the delivery company \$10,000.00 and the service station owner \$5,000.00. He said the delivery company agreed to pay their share, but the service station owner is arguing that his penalty is excessive. The Board advised Scott to fine the delivery company the \$10,000.00 and the service station owner \$500.00. Scott also reported that there are major wi-fi problems at the firehouse. He was advised to have it investigated. The last item Scott talked about was the problem he was having summoning people into court. He said no one seems to know how to do it. He is checking with other districts and the Municipal Attorney to reach a solution.

**Treasurer's Report:** Fred Zauner reported that there is \$511,590.00 in the bank. He said we are due another check from the Township in November. Motion by Jered Hafitz and seconded by Charles Belmont to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion passed. A complete copy of the Treasurer's report is attached to the minutes.

**Fire Company Report:** Joe Earhardt wanted to know if the Commissioners have made any progress on purchasing land. President Marcucci told him that no progress has been made and that the Fire Company should do what they have to do. Joe also reported on the Juvenile Fire Setters Program. He said there were no new cases over the summer. He said that when school starts, he would check into the two cases he had from Lalor School because they never contacted him about the program. He also reported that Trenton Fire Department's program is up and running. He said he got that done within the last six months. He also reported that he is being trained for a job with the federal government and if everything works out he will probably be giving up his Fire Educator Specialist position with our Fire Prevention Bureau in about two years.

**New Business:** Fred Zauner said that he did not know why the Board did not get the dental plan for retirees through the State Health Benefits. Chief Gribbin said we would have to do a resolution and we could get them enrolled and then we would be billed throughout the year instead of paying everything at the end of the year. The Board decided to do a resolution at the next meeting. It would take effect January of 2015. Bills totaling \$276,795.53 were then presented for payment. Motion by Fred Zauner and seconded by Jered Hafitz to pay the bills. Motion passed. A complete list of the bills are attached to the minutes. A resolution was presented by Charles Belmont and

seconded by Fred Zauner to proceed to executive session following the regular business meeting.

**Resolution #2014-8**


Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Res.	Sec.
John Marcucci	x					
Adam Bendas				x		
Fred Zauner	x					x
Jered Hafitz	x					
Charles Belmont	x				x	

The resolution was approved.

**Deferred Business:** John Marcucci reported that he had a brand new Honda generator that he paid \$2,300.00 for. He said that since we did not replace the generator that was stolen, he would sell the district this generator for \$2,000.00. Motion by Fred Zauner and seconded by Jered Hafitz to purchase the generator. Motion passed.

**Public Comment:** None

Being no further business to come before the floor, motion by Fred Zauner and seconded by Jered Hafitz to adjourn the meeting and proceed to executive session for the purposes of discussing legal and personnel matters. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Charles Belmont, Secretary  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
District #7