

**MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2010**

The meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1 was called to order by President JC Kenny at 7:00 P.M.

The Clerk read the "Open Meeting Act" requirements.

President JC Kenny led a pledge to the flag.

A moment of silence was observed for departed members.

**ROLL CALL:** Comm. JC Kenny, Patrick Kenny, Gould, Howell, Gardner: Present.  
Attorney-Gregory Goodman & Clerk-John Ur: Present.

Comm. JC Kenny pointed out the emergency exits.

**MOTION** to accept the previous minutes of December 28, 2009 and January 11, 2010 as read made by Comm. Howell, seconded by Comm. Gould. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Comm. Gardner: Yes, Comm. Gould: Yes, Comm. Howell: Yes, Comm. JC Kenny: Yes, Comm. Patrick Kenny: Yes. All in favor.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**PERSONNEL:** Comm. JC Kenny reported employees taking their normal time off and selecting vacations for 2010.

**EQUIPMENT:** Comm. Howell gave report. Engine 9 was sent to Campbell's because it kept stalling. It's been repaired and put back in service (engine oxygen sensor). Engine 11 had some minor repairs and is back in service. The back seat on the ladder truck broke and was sent to Campbell. Will be repaired under warranty. Battery replaced on 1-3-5. The nozzles and appliances have arrived and were placed on the apparatus by Capt. Moran.

**PURCHASING:** Comm. Patrick Kenny reported normal janitorial purchases for the month.

**BUILDINGS:** Comm. Patrick Kenny reported that Image First did the monthly laundry service. Bowco did monthly spray. Barrier Electric has started working on the solar panels. 401 cleaned up and installed shelving on 400 School St. Survivor Air & Fire conducted the annual fire inspection on the alarm panel. All career and volunteers had their PPE and FIT testing done. Any deficiencies in the gear are being processed and corrected. Full report to be given after completion. Motorola was in on Thursday and will be back on Friday and Monday to start gutting the radio room for the new radio system.

**RADIOS:** Comm. Patrick Kenny reported one radio out for repair.

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**FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU:** Comm. Gould gave the reports for the month of January 2010 submitted by Fire Lt. Keith Repace, copies on file in the F.P.B. Complimented Fire Prevention for the clearing of snow around hydrants.

**HYDRANTS:** Comm. Gardner reported a meeting with the water company regarding the Upper Barron Ave. water pressure issue. They studied the idea we gave them and came up with approximately 10 different options. There is one going through the High School property that may get done faster and benefit the town and High School. Making progress and in the process of scheduling other meetings. There is a pre-construction meeting scheduled next week with the water company for the Elf Rd. project. Comm. Patrick Kenny asked when the hydrant on Rte. 35, by the High School will be fixed, due to a water main break. Comm. Gardner stated he will take care of.

**SAFETY:** Comm. Howell reported progress.

**LIAISON TO FIRE CO:** Comm. Gardner reported that at the Chief's request, he made a presentation on the dugout and asked the volunteers to get back to him. Hasn't heard anything. He will bring up again at next company meeting. He also discussed tuition reimbursement programs at the company meeting. Someone brought up that the town provides the same program and asked Greg Goodman to look into whether or not it's legal for us to do this on top of the town.

**AWARDS:** Comm. Gould reported progress.

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS:** Comm. JC Kenny reported that he spoke with Mr. Landolfi regarding the TriData study on the Districts #1 and #2 merger. Mr. Landolfi is working with TriData and pushing them to get the report. It's been almost two years. The town applied for the grant.

**The report of PAYROLL and BILLS for January 2010:**

Payroll: \$219,315.71 Bills: \$145,954.93

Comm. Patrick Kenny reported two add-on bills; General Graphics for roll call sheets not to exceed \$250. and Motorola for \$95,000., as per the contract

**MOTION** to accept the report of payroll and bills including the two add-on bills and to authorize checks made by Comm. Howell, seconded by Comm. Gould, all in favor except for Comm. Gardner and Comm. Patrick Kenny voting no on the Genova Burns #9960 bill for the sick time civil service inquiry. Comm. Patrick Kenny would like to discuss the Genova Burns bill further under Executive Session. Comm. Gardner questioned the overtime. It's almost doubled. Comm. Patrick Kenny stated that firefighters needed to get IMS 300. There were 5 or 6 guys who had to come in for 3 days overtime, to get certified.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** as of February 3, 2010, read by John Ur. (see attached).

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**MOTION** to accept the Treasurer's report as read by Comm. Howell, seconded by Comm. Gould, all in favor.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** John Ur reported that all communications were passed on to the Board.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Greg Goodman reported two items for Executive Session; update on civil service and contract negotiations with the labor attorney.

Comm. JC Kenny reported that a copy of the contract has been emailed to everyone. Would like everyone to highlight any proposed changes and email back to Maria.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Comm. Patrick Kenny reported that the January 2010 Firefighters Exam announcement is out. Go to [www.state.nj.us/csc](http://www.state.nj.us/csc) to print out application. The application should be filled out and sent in with check or money order to the State. Has to be on-line. Do not have hard copies anymore. Comm. Gardner stated that the letter seems to indicate that hard copies will be sent out. Comm. Patrick Kenny reported a letter received from Councilman Greg Vacara regarding the Annual Mayor's Youth Volunteer Award. Passed it on to the Chief.

Comm. Gardner reported that he would like to avoid the expense of pagers in using text messaging in the new system. Comm. Patrick Kenny stated that some volunteers do not have cell phones and if the cell phone service goes down, then you have no paging system whatsoever. Some people do not have unlimited text messaging and may ask for reimbursement. The pagers should be the first line of defense and the cell phone second. Should not just rely on one. That's the best way to operate. The pagers are about \$400. each, which is the same as we pay now. Comm. Patrick Kenny stated that we cannot get on the Woodbridge Emergency Squad system. Comm. Gardner and Comm. Patrick Kenny discussed the internal CAD system and the external text messaging. Comm. Patrick Kenny spoke to Eddie Barrett. Eddie is going on vacation and when he gets back he would be glad to meet with us. Comm. Gardner asked the Board and Union to consider what other services could be provided under Interlocal Agreements.

**MOTION** to have the President sign a Columbia Bank letter to re-up the bond for use of the Verizon poles for the preemption lights, made by Comm. Patrick Kenny, seconded by Comm. Howell. All in favor.

Comm. JC Kenny reported that Delta Dental is up for renewal. Comm. Gardner suggested going month to month with Delta Dental to give us an opportunity to look at all of our insurance programs together to see if money can be saved. Comm. JC Kenny stated that would have to be negotiated with the Union.

**MOTION** to renew Delta Dental with the understanding that we may exercise our 60 day withdrawal, should we find a way to save money or come to an agreement with the Union, made by Comm. Howell, seconded by Comm. Gould. All in favor.

Comm. JC Kenny reported that Mr. Mitch has contacted the Clerk's office with regard to the upcoming 2/20/10 election and offered his services. Comm. Howell and Comm. Gould recommend utilizing his services. Comm. Gardner stated that he discussed with Maria the eligibility to vote in Sewaren, especially Old Rd. Comm. JC Kenny stated that he did explain to Mr. Mitch about blacking out names in the books and there will also be a map. Comm. Gardner recommended discussions with Mr. Mitch regarding the close of election, view counting of ballots, rules for machines. Comm. Howell stated that the problem last year was that we were forced to have paper ballots. The room had to be cleared and quiet. It was a huge task. This year with the machines, it will be a much more orderly, efficient and speedier process. Normally, we allow the Commissioners, the candidates and the poll clerks to come in the back room. Comm. JC Kenny will talk to Mr. Mitch tomorrow and will have an answer. He will send out a letter to all the candidates informing them and the Board members of Mr. Mitch's preferred method.

**MOTION** for the President to send a letter to Assemblymen Coughlin, Wisniewski and Senator Vitale asking for a legislation to be passed for the Fire District election to fall under Title 19, made by Comm. Patrick Kenny, seconded by Comm. Gould. All in favor.

**MOTION** to pay Mr. Mitch, the poll workers and Electec as in the past, made by Comm. Gould, seconded by Comm. Howell. All in favor.

Comm. Gardner asked about poll worker selection. Would like to see a new system in the future. The candidates should have some input. Maybe have the Board members submit names. Comm. Howell commented that the problem is not picking people, it's getting people. The reason that we use the same list year-in and year-out, is because they are qualified and experienced. They can move the process of voting along. They know what to do. Comm. JC Kenny stated that for the last 23 years, it has always been Board members. It can be changed. Comm. Gardner stated that it could be changed now. Title 40 gives great discretion on how the Board is run. Maria stated that the company charges per hour on machine training. Comm. Patrick Kenny stated that we are too far into the process to make changes this year and to go with the poll workers this year that we have used. Can come up with new rules and procedures for next year. Comm. Gardner stated that salaries for poll workers are higher now. Comm. Patrick Kenny stated that we pay \$150. and the town pays over \$200. Comm. Gardner would like each of the Board members to select poll workers.

**MOTION** to establish rules next year for the selection of poll workers, made by Comm. Howell, seconded by Comm. Gould. All in favor.

**REMARKS, COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

**CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief Rob Foerch

|               | <u>2010</u> | <u>2009</u> |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| January Calls | 48          | 51          |
| Y-T-D Calls   | 48          | 51          |

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2 calls into Port Reading.

John Vrtaric - commented on poll workers. Always use the same people. Should open to all First Ward. Asked about broken seat, purchase of gloves and helmets. Comm. Howell explained. Gloves are purchased by the case. They are expendable and replaceable. Always have a couple of helmets around in case one gets damaged. They are usually purchased when a new man comes in or if one breaks or gets damaged. Mr. Vrtaric questioned what gets done with old helmets, why not donate. Comm. Howell responded throw away if damaged or out-of-date. Comm. Patrick Kenny responded cannot give to someone if damaged or out-of-date. Comm. Patrick Kenny also gave cost savings on using leather boots as opposed to rubber boots. Bunker gear is good for 10 years. Comm. Howell stated that donating equipment is a very noble idea, but we would incur a liability. If we were to give our old equipment to someone and they got injured, they could come back and sue because we gave them outdated, uncertified protective gear. We do not do it to protect our taxpayers from lawsuits. Mr. Vrtaric asked about selling old equipment as is for \$1. Mr. Goodman stated that he would have to look into the liability of the Board selling outdated equipment. Mr. Vrtaric questioned #9975, and 1-3-5 repairs and total cost. Comm. Howell explained that the light bar was out on Engine 11, bulbs and sockets had to be replaced, the transfer valve broke and had to be replaced. The battery went dead on 1-3-5 (Capt.'s vehicle) and had to purchase new battery. The total of \$3,647. is for all the repairs on four different vehicles.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Comm. JC Kenny reported that there will be discussions with regard to legal matters on the civil service update, contract negotiations and Genova Burns.

**MOTION IN** by Comm. Gould, seconded by Comm. Howell, all in favor at 7:55 P.M.

**MOTION OUT** by Comm. Patrick Kenny, seconded by Comm. Howell, all in favor at 8:16 P.M.

Greg Goodman reported that during executive session discussed the following. He gave a civil service update. They advised the Board that it is improper to use sick time for personal business with a Cease and Desist Order. Contract negotiations are continuing with the labor attorney. There will be a motion to discuss with Port Reading in joining in a lawsuit against the County Board of Elections over the use of the machines. The Board authorized him to send a letter to Genova Burns requesting reimbursement of funds that the Commissioners have spent on the civil service sick time policy issue.

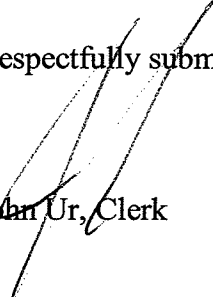
Comm. JC Kenny announced the election on 2/20/10 from 2 - 9 p.m. at The Sewaren Library on West Ave. and at the fire house on School St.

No further business to come before the Board.

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**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting was made by Comm. JC Kenny, seconded by Comm. Howell, all in favor at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



John Ur, Clerk

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**THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT NO 1**

**MONTHLY BILL LIST**

February 3, 2010

02/01/10

| Date                | Num   | Name                                    | Memo  | Paid Amount        |
|---------------------|-------|---|---|--------------------|
| <b>Unclassified</b> |       |   |   |                    |
| 01/12/2010          | 9950  | Gregory Goodman, Esq                    | Professional Services Rendered - January 2010                 | -3,900.00          |
| 01/15/2010          | 9953  | NJ Division of Pensions & Benefits      | Claims Experience Report - #156200                            | -2,000.00          |
| 01/20/2010          | 9952  | MAUREEN COMITO                          | To Replenish Petty Cash                                       | -142.60            |
| 02/01/2010          | 9959  | JOHN TAKACS CONSTRUCTION C...           | Rent - 400 School Street & Back Garage - February 2010        | -1,875.00          |
| 02/01/2010          | 9954  | Catherine Crowe                         | Reimbursement - Health Coverage January 2010                  | -762.20            |
| 02/03/2010          | 9955  | Airtec Service Inc                      | 12 - Air Filters  | -72.00             |
| 02/03/2010          | 9956  | Alan Radio                              | Car #1-3-7 Install Floor Computer Mount                       | -80.00             |
| 02/03/2010          | 9958  | Bowco Laboratories Inc                  | Regular Service - January 2010                                | -35.00             |
| 02/03/2010          | 9960  | Genova, Burns, + Vernoia                | Sick Time - Civil Service Inquiry                             | -1,286.26          |
| 02/03/2010          | 9961  | Gregory Goodman, Esq                    | Professional Services Rendered - February 2010                | -3,900.00          |
| 02/03/2010          | 9962  | IDEARC MEDIA CORP                       | Advertising - Phone Book                                      | -34.00             |
| 02/03/2010          | 9963  | Image First                             | Laundry Service   | -99.46             |
| 02/03/2010          | 9964  | Madsen & Howell, Inc                    | Supplies  | -541.67            |
| 02/03/2010          | 9965  | MegaPath Inc                            | Account #25581  | -196.01            |
| 02/03/2010          | 9966  | Royal Battery                           | 1 - 665MF Battery   | -95.00             |
| 02/03/2010          | 9967  | Stone Mountain Printing                 | 500 - Vouchers  | -29.50             |
| 02/03/2010          | 9968  | TASC Fire Apparatus, Inc                | Bunker Boots/Helmets/Gloves                                   | -3,368.80          |
| 02/03/2010          | 9969  | The Star Ledger                         | Account # XWOOD2393021 - January 2010 Meeting Date C...       | -128.28            |
| 02/03/2010          | 9970  | Township of Woodbridge-Comptrolle...    | Fuel - December 2009  | -1,348.11          |
| 02/03/2010          | 9971  | United Computer Sales & Service, Inc    | Monthly Customer Service - January 2010                       | -582.00            |
| 02/03/2010          | 9972  | United Parcel Service                   | Account #XV0896   | -2.77              |
| 02/03/2010          | 9973  | Verizon Wireless - Laptop Modems        | Account #982554463-00001 - Laptop Modems                      | -832.21            |
| 02/03/2010          | 9974  | Aim Uniform                             | Uniform Purchase  | -1,124.81          |
| 02/03/2010          | 9975  | Campbell Supply, Inc                    | Repairs to Engine #11, Car #1-3-5, & Truck #6                 | -3,567.10          |
| 02/03/2010          | 9981  | Delta Dental Plan of NJ                 | Group # 1063-00001 02/01/2010 TO 02/28/2010                   | -9,156.56          |
| 02/03/2010          | 9976  | Free Public Library of Sewaren          | Fire Election - February 20, 2010                             | -300.00            |
| 02/03/2010          | 9977  | Home News + Tribune                     | Account#076094 - 2010 Budget                                  | -88.73             |
| 02/03/2010          | 9978  | Image First                             | Laundry Service   | -99.46             |
| 02/03/2010          | 9980  | John Ur                                 | Monthly Fee - January 2010                                    | -4,333.33          |
| 02/03/2010          | 9982  | McNeil & Co., Inc.                      | Accident & Health Policy Renewal - 4th Installment            | -1,729.25          |
| 02/03/2010          | 9983  | Middlesex Cnty Prev & Protect Asstn     | 2010 Membership Dues  | -375.00            |
| 02/03/2010          | 9984  | NJ Motor Vehicle Commission             | Registration Renewal 2002 Trailer                             | -23.00             |
| 02/03/2010          | 9985  | Postmaster-Woodbridge                   | 2 - Rolls of Stamps   | -88.00             |
| 02/03/2010          | 9986  | Sophie Bader                            | Reimbursement Health Benefits - January 2010                  | -419.88            |
| 02/03/2010          | 9987  | Standard Insurance Company              | Life Insurance - Policy #136829                               | -3,129.28          |
| 02/03/2010          | TEPS  | State of New Jersey- Health Benefits... | Retiree Health Benefits February 2010                         | -12,833.35         |
| 02/03/2010          | TEPS  | State of NJ- Health Benefits Fund       | Health & Prescription Coverage -February 2010                 | -45,348.02         |
| 02/03/2010          | 9988  | Survivor Fire & Security Systems, Inc   | Kitchen Hood Inspection & Annual Fire Extinguisher Mainten... | -474.00            |
| 02/03/2010          | 9989  | TASC Fire Apparatus, Inc                | 6 - Smith & Warren Rhodium Badges                             | -203.45            |
| 02/03/2010          | 9990  | The Coffee Connection                   | 12 - 5 Gallon Bottles   | -78.00             |
| 02/03/2010          | 9991  | Vision Service Plan                     | Vision Coverage February 2010 GRP# 120784800001               | -1,127.75          |
| 02/03/2010          | 9992  | AT&T                                    | Long Distance - Clerk   | -78.15             |
| 02/03/2010          | 9993  | Verizon                                 | Clerk/CAD/Fire Alarm  | -162.35            |
| 02/03/2010          | 9994  | AT&T                                    | Long Distance - Landline                                      | -35.59             |
| 02/03/2010          | 9995  | Life Insurance Company Of North A...    | Volunteer Life Insurance- Policy # GL-5474                    | -387.02            |
| 02/03/2010          | 9996  | Lowe's                                  | Supplies  | -425.25            |
| 02/03/2010          | 9997  | MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANYY                | Hydrant Bill - January 1, 2010 to January 31, 2010            | -35,169.21         |
| 02/03/2010          | 9998  | PSE&G                                   | Electric - School St & Back Garage                            | -158.85            |
| 02/03/2010          | 9999  | Sears Commercial One                    | Plier & Screwdriver   | -25.66             |
| 02/03/2010          | 10000 | Strauss Discount Auto                   | Account # 98000055  | -12.51             |
| 02/03/2010          | 10001 | PSE&G                                   | Electric - Firehouse  | -1,281.10          |
| 02/03/2010          | 10002 | Dorothy Wilcox                          | Reimbursement Health Benefits - January 2010                  | -419.88            |
| 02/03/2010          | 10003 | Elizabethtown Gas                       | Account #2164284700 - Firehouse                               | -1,989.52          |
| Total unclassified  |       |   |   | -145,954.93        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        |       |   |   | <b>-145,954.93</b> |

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THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT NO 1

TREASURER'S REPORT

03-Feb-10

|                              |    |                     |
|------------------------------|----|---------------------|
| PREVIOUS BALANCE<br>01/11/10 | \$ | 2,590,286.88        |
| DEPOSITS                     |    | 21,939.08           |
| PAYROLL AND RELATED TAXES    |    | -142,988.26         |
| CURRENT BILLS                |    | <u>-145,954.93</u>  |
| ENDING BALANCE<br>02/03/2010 | \$ | <b>2,323,282.77</b> |