

# **LOWER TOWNSHIP FIRE COMMISSION**

**SECOND DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 724  
NORTH CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY 08204**

## **Minutes of the Minutes of the August 19, 2013 Meeting**

The regular monthly meeting of Fire District 2, Lower Township, Cape May County, New Jersey was called to order at 20:00 hours by President Brown at the Town Bank Fire House, 224 Town Bank Road, North Cape May, New Jersey.

President Brown read the statement of compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" and pointed out the fire exits to the public in attendance.

After flag salute, roll was called; Commissioners present were Andrews, Brown, Conley, Nolan and Prendergast and Charlotte, "Missie" Taylor Financial Data Specialist. Also in attendance were 4 firefighters, and no other members of the public.

### **MINUTES**

1. The Secretary reviewed the minutes of July 15, 2013 regular meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was offered by Nolan and seconded by Prendergast; voting yes, Andrews, Brown, Conley, Nolan and Prendergast; voting no, no one; abstaining, no one.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Prendergast reviewed the Treasurer's report; a copy of the report is attached to the original minutes and made a part hereof. Interest earned this month was \$72.43. A tax check from the Township of Lower was received in the amount of \$179,647.00. A motion to approve the report was offered by Conley and seconded by Nolan; voting yes, Andrews, Brown, Conley, Nolan and Prendergast; voting no, no one; abstaining, no one.
- The Commissioners reviewed all bills that were submitted to the Treasurer in proper form. Resolution 13-01.08 authorizing payment of those bills, in the amount of \$17,422.67 was offered by Conley and seconded by Nolan; voting yes, Andrews, Brown, Conley, Nolan and Prendergast; voting no, no one; abstaining, no one.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Secretary read the following correspondence:

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1. Email in dated 7/24/13 requesting information from Lincoln Financial regarding LOSAP Reports.
2. Copy of a letter in from David Perry to William Galestok, Planning Director dated 7/31/13 providing Fire Bureau comments for Hober/Peoples-Socs Lane to the Planning Board.
3. Email out dated 8/01/13 to Allyson Milazzo transmitting Lincoln Financial Reports for the last quarter of 2012 and the first half of 2013. We still need the Investment Accounts broken out for 2012.
4. Letter out to Leon Costello dated 8/15/13 by Lew Conley asserting management certification for the annual Audit.
5. Letter out to Leon Costello dated 8/15/13 by Charles Prendergast financial records certification for the annual Audit.
6. Copy of the June 8, 2013 Minutes of the N.J. Association of Fire Districts meeting.

### **TOWN BANK VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY REPORT**

Chief Megonigal reported the following:

- Report of the month's activities; a copy of the report is attached to the original of these minutes.
- The Chief reported that the new Pierce pumper should be ready for final inspection in late September or early October, although delivery will be late November or December.

### **BUREAU OF FIRE SAFETY REPORT**

- Conley who is the Board's representative to the Bureau provided the financial for August even though the Board does not meet in the summer months.

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### OLD BUSINESS

- *The Chief reported a growing building crack in the southeast corner of the engine bay. Conley has look at the crack and it looks like a settlement issue. The Commission authorized Conley to contact a structural engineer to look at the situation and make recommendations. (03/08).*

*Conley reported that he contacted Edward P. Ryan, PE, a structural engineer who met with Conley and Brown to look at the building. Mr. Ryan's preliminary determination was that the cracking is due to settlement but there is no immediate danger. He will prepare recommendations and specifications for the repair of the settlement as well as the cracks in the near future. (04/08)*

*Conley reported that he has received the details from structural engineer, Edward P. Ryan and will coordinate with Richard Braslow and Ryan to put together a contract to perform the work recommended. (06/08).*

*Nolan inquired as to the status of the crick repair. Conley responded that the District is in the process of having a contractor look at it and provide an estimate to see if the repair needs to be bid. He also reported the Mr. Ryan had reported that there is no immediate danger, and budget constraints had moved this repair a little lower on the priority list, but not forgotten. (06/12)*

- *Scott Brown asked if there was some types of sealer that can be used to stop the damage to apparatus aprons that have sever salt damage. He has seen repairs to bridge surfaces that were temporarily repaired rather quickly. Brown volunteered to discuss it with a friend who is a masonry contractor and Conley will talk to the County Engineer who may have specified the repairs to the County Bridges. (06/12)*

*Brown reported that Jay Blackley of Blackley Concrete will look at the driveway and make a recommendation (07/12)*

*Brown reported that Jay Blackley reported that there is no fix the driveway apron will need to be removed and replaced. Conley requested that Blackley provide us with a cost estimate to do that work so that we know if we would need to bid the project and look for the money to pay for the replacement. (08/12)*

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*Brown reported that Blackley has provided a proposal to remove the existing concrete and replace it with the same strength reinforced concrete for \$24,860.00. This is above the bid threshold and obviously will need to be bid.*

*Conley suggested that if total replacement is necessary, we should look into retaining a structural engineer or architect to design a heating system into the apron and then there would be no need to have salt on it. Conley will look into finding an engineer or architect with the appropriate experience. (09/12)*

*Conley reported that he has not been able to get Jay Blackley (concrete mason) to respond with a cost for a temporary winter patch. Brown will reach out to Troiano Concrete to see if they can do a temporary patch to get us through the winter months. (12/12)*

*Brown reported that he has contacted Ernie Troiano, Jr. of E. Troiano & Sons Concrete who will perform a temporary patch on the driveway for an estimated cost of \$2,100.00 as outlined in his letter of December 21, 2012. Conley reported that he has contacted, in writing, Thomas Lipski of PEOSH to request an extension of time to repair the driveway apron. A motion was offered by Andrews and seconded by Nolan to approve E. Troiano and Sons Concrete's proposal and authorize the work, voting yes, Andrews, Brown, Conley, Nolan and Prendergast; voting no, no one; abstaining, no one.*

*Conley presented a proposal from M V Engineering of Cape May Court House, NJ for providing the design, bid preparation and administration, and construction observation of the permanent driveway apron replacement for an estimated \$11,200.00 as contained in their written proposal. Resolution 13-20 Approving the award of the contract with Brian Murphy, PE of M V Engineering for the Design and Inspection of the Driveway Apron Replacement was offered by Andrews and seconded by Prendergast voting yes, Andrews, Brown, Conley, Nolan and Prendergast; voting no, no one; abstaining, no one. (01/22/13)*

*Brown reported that the driveway apron will be repaired with a temporary concrete patch by E. Troiano and Sons on Wednesday 2/27/13. (02/13)*

*Conley reported that the driveway apron was repaired on February 27, 2013 on schedule and he emailed a notice to Thomas Lipski of PEOSH along with photos of the completed driveway. Conley continued the report by telling all that Thomas Lipski emailed back that he would be issuing a letter indicating the violation has been abated. (03/13)*

*Conley reminded all that we have received preliminary plans and specifications for the permanent driveway replacement from MV Engineering. We need to decide when we want the driveway advertised, what is going to be included in the contract, such as fencing and/or security for the apparatus to be stored outside during the replacement of the apron and the concrete curing time. (03/13)*

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*Conley discussed the need to meet to discuss how to deal with the apparatus security which will need to be outside the building during the removal and curing of the concrete apron. The meeting was set for April 22, 2013. (04/13)*

*Brown reminded everyone that only Conley and he showed up for the April 22 meeting and rescheduled for June 24, 2013 (05/13).*

Conley reported that he has met with the engineer and reviewed the details for staging the apparatus out of three contiguous bays and then wait until the concrete has cured and then the next three contiguous bays can be poured. He also reviewed the parking lot driveway that needs to also be replaced as well as the concrete curb that also needs to be replaced. There will be a new concrete ramp created from the parking lot to the sidewalk on Town Bank Road so that the access from the parking lot in front of the engine bays can be fenced off or landscaped to prohibit access. (08/13)

- *A presentation was made for a Power Purchasing Agreement by Emerald Energy, LLC (Joseph Jackson) and Cambria Solar (Mike Atkins) wherein Mr. Atkins represented that the current electric use would be sold to us by Cambria Solar at a savings of 8% with a 2.5% increase/year after the first year. Resolution #12-34 approving the PPA offer subject to review by the Solicitor Richard Braslow was offered by Nolan and seconded by Conley voting yes, Conley, Nolan and Prendergast; voting no, no one; abstaining, no one. (10/12)*

*Conley reported that he forward the draft Power Purchasing Agreement and current electric use release documents provided to him to Solicitor Braslow. The current use release document was approved by Mr. Braslow, signed by Commissioner Conley and returned to Joe Jackson. The Power Purchasing Agreement was drafted to be with the Town Bank Volunteer Fire Company and was unacceptable. Conley would not sign the document and returned it to Joe Jackson for correction. In the letter from Mr. Atkins attorney, the attorney states that he also agreed that the Fire District is the correct entity for Mr. Atkins to contract with, but it was his opinion that such an agreement needed to be publicly bid. This is contrary to what Mr. Jackson and his people had represented at prior meetings. It is, however consistent with Commissioner Conley and Solicitor Braslow's feeling. This information was passed on to Mr. Jackson for a response and/or a revised proposal. As of November 19, 2012 Conley has not heard back from anyone. (11/12)*

*As of December 17, 2012 Conley has not heard back from anyone. (12/12)*

*Conley read a report from solar company's structural engineer indicating that the roof trusses will need to be beefed up in order to support the weight of the solar panels. Conley will reach out to the engineer to be sure that there is no problem with the trusses without adding the solar panels and attempt to get a quote for what it would cost to get a proposal that will tell us how much beefing up the trusses will need and the anticipated cost for the work if we decided to go ahead with the solar panels. (04/13)*

*Conley reported that he spoke with the structural engineer who reported that the roof is fine without adding the solar panels, however, the roof will need to be beefed up to carry the additional load of the solar panels. Conley requested that he provide Mike Adkins a cost proposal for the design of the strengthening of the roof to support the solar panels, which proposal will include an estimate of the*

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*cost of actually strengthening the roof. All of the proposal correspondence should be coordinated through Mike Adkins. (06/13)*

- *Chief Megonigal has received a letter of interest from the Belleplain Emergency Corp, Inc. to purchase the Rehabilitation Bus that was formerly a Lower Township Elementary School Bus for one dollar, which is no longer needed by the Town Bank Volunteer Fire Company. The Chief recommended the sale.*

*Resolution 13-32 Transferring the ownership of the Rehabilitation Bus that was formerly a Lower Township Elementary School Bus to Belleplain Emergency Corp, Inc. for one dollar was offered by Conley and seconded by Andrews voting yes, Andrews, Brown, Conley, Nolan and Prendergast; voting no, no one; abstaining, no one. (07/13)*

Nolan reported that the bus was picked up by Belleplain Emergency Corp., the insurance has been removed from the bus and we received an insurance credit of \$2,233.91. **The bus needs to be removed from the assets inventory.** (08/13)

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Conley reviewed an engagement letter from our auditor, Leon Costello to audit the LOSAP account that is now required and not covered under our existing contract. Resolution 13-33 Approving Leon Costello for Audit/Review of the LOSAP accounts was offered by Conley and seconded by Nolan, voting yes, Andrews, Brown, Conley, Nolan and Prendergast; voting no, no one; abstaining, no one.
2. New purchases authorized that were requested by Chief Megonigal are as follows:
  - Witmer Public Safety, Coatesville, PA, for 3sets of turn out gear under state contract, totaling \$7,110.00.
  - American Test Center, River Falls, WI for ladder testing \$1,324.00.
  - Breathe Safe, Warrington, PA for a MSA TIL 6000 Plus and Vehicle Kit, under state contract totaling \$15,000.00.
  - UP Racing Fuels, Inc., Newark, DE, (low quote) for 10 five gallon pails of SEF fuel totaling \$559.70.
  - Fire One, Drexel Hill, PA, for pump flow testing for the 4 pumps totaling \$1,060.00 .
  - Sea Gear Marine Supply, Cape May, NJ (low quote) for 1 ACR GPIRB Model 2846 for \$995.00.
  - Witmer Public Safety, Coatesville, PA, (low quote) for replacement fire hoses various sizes and lengths totaling\$3,985.00.
  - American Diving Supply, Egg Harbor Twp., NJ (low quote) for 8-Sherwood Compasses totaling \$300.00.

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**PUBLIC PORTION**

Nothing

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:20 hours by a motion by Nolan and a second by Andrews.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis H. Conley, Jr.  
Secretary/Commissioner