

**Bridgewater Fire District # 3
Commissioners Meeting**

Monthly Minutes

Date: January 20th, 2021

Call To Order 7:00 PM

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: by Chair Larson .

Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A.10:4-6. On January 15, 2021 proper notice was sent to the Courier News and filed with the Clerk at the Township of Bridgewater and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

Please be aware of the district 3 policy for public hearings: The public will be given a chance to speak at the public portion of the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance Called for by Chair Larson

Moment of Silence for Fallen Brothers and Sisters

<u>Roll Call</u>	Comm. Avin	Present
	Comm Holtz	Present
	Comm. Larson	Present
	Comm Hobbs	Present
	Comm. Mallon	Present

Minutes Both of the Previous Month's Submitted electronically to members

Motion to accept as presented Holtz

Seconded Mallon

All in favor

Treasurers Report: Submitted by Holtz

Motion to accept Hobbs

Second by Mallon

All in favor

Emergency Services Reports

Bradley Gardens Rescue Squad Chief Taylor

24 calls total

17 in District 3

364 year to date.

A new insurance card is requested for the ambulance. A minor collision with a shed was involved, but there is no damage or costs to report.

Country Hills Fire Department Chief Larry Bautista

Copy to file

29 calls

6 district 3

284 calls for the year

Most members have received vaccine for COVID 19, and proper COVID 19 protocol is being followed.

Green Knoll Fire Department

Chief Kevin Driscoll

26 calls

473 year to date

598 man hours

Apparatus wise, all vehicles are in working order. Chief 34 has put about 3,000 to 4,000 dollars into his vehicle in the past two months. He has had to replace parts on the front end, as well as having a charging problem. The vehicle is dying after two days. Chief 34 is looking to have everything be virtual as far as quickbooks and switching over through nifrs. Chief 34 stated that both FINDERNE and Bradley Gardens Fire Companies are now doing pay per call.

North Branch Fire Department

Chief Dan Russoniello

Copy to file

32 calls

17 in District 3

524 for the year

108 is running well. A small update from Seagrave, the salesman said as far as he knows the delivery date is still May but could be pushed back due to COVID.

Old Business:

Commissioner Avin has created a COVID policy for all Bridgewater fire district 3 companies to follow.

Chief 34 stated that themselves and other fire companies have been creating their own policies. At this point the fire companies have created their own policies and guidelines and have been following this for the past year.

The Chiefs have requested that the guidelines be forwarded to them for review and can be edited if needed.

Motion by Commissioner Holtz to have the Fire District 3 Covid Policy first draft read.

Seconded by Avin

All in favor

Commissioner Holtz stated he will be reading off the temporary budget for 2021. This year the budget will increase two percent from last year to give a total of \$991,451.00. Currently, the DCA has not approved the presentation of the budget. The fire company contracts will need to be sent over to the DCA to help resolve this problem. This year we have tried to boost our equipment spending as much as possible, up to \$100,000. Commissioner Holtz is hoping to add an amendment to the budget to help boost the spending for equipment.

Commissioner Holtz stated we need to put this money in the budget so that we can spend it. Both the first payment for North Branch's Engine and the money for Country Hills' engine are included in the budget. With upcoming large expenses, things that may not be able to be purchased this year will be on the list for next year.

Commissioner Larson stated that he received the list of eligible members from Country Hills this week. Commissioner Larson asked for the list from the other Bridgewater Fire District 3 Companies.

To reiterate, the election will be on April 20th, 2021, due to COVID-19.

Commissioner Holtz stated that he requested that all line officers on the “firematics” side of things has all of the required certifications to be in their respective positions.

Commissioners Holtz and Larson will sit down with all of the fire chiefs to bring all of their five year plans together to get everyone on the same page. The meeting will be on February 11th at Green Knoll Station 2.

New Business:

Regarding Quickbooks, Country Hills switched from Quickbooks to Quicken. Green Knoll would like to use a web based quickbooks. Commissioner Holtz is requesting that all fire companies submit an invoice of their current software to help cover some of the costs of this software.

*Commissioner Holtz makes a motion to continue to pay for bookkeeping software for the fire companies as per our financial agreement with them.
Seconded by Hobbs
All in favor*

Commissioner Mallon will look into pay per call plans and other incentives to help improve retention within the fire district.

Commissioner Holtz is announcing his candidacy for the upcoming election.

Open To Public:

Chief 34 asked if it would be possible to do a District 3 drill regarding blood bourne pathogens over zoom.

Alex Murguly, a life long member of Country Hills stated that there are trade fairs to be able to target people in the trades to keep retention high.

Closed to Public

By Chairman Larson

Motion to Adjourn

*Motion By: Hobbs
Second By: Holtz*

*Meeting Adjourned: 8:24 pm
Minutes Submitted By: Comm. Mallon*

**Bridgewater Fire District # 3
Commissioners Meeting**

Monthly Minutes

Date: February 17th, 2021

Call To Order 7:00 PM

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: by Chair Larson .

Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A.10:4-6. On February 14th, 2021 proper notice was sent to the Courier News and filed with the Clerk at the Township of Bridgewater and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

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Pledge of Allegiance Called for by Chair Larson

Moment of Silence for Fallen Brothers and Sisters

<u>Roll Call</u>	Comm. Avin	Present
	Comm Holtz	Present
	Comm. Larson	Present
	Comm Hobbs	Present
	Comm. Mallon	Present

Minutes Both of the Previous Month's Submitted electronically to members

Motion to accept as presented Avin

Seconded Hobbs

All in favor

Treasurers Report: Submitted by Holtz

Motion to accept Hobbs

Second by Mallon

All in favor

Emergency Services Reports

Bradley Gardens Rescue Squad Chief Taylor

36 calls total

Everything is in good working order.

Country Hills Fire Department Chief Larry Bautista

Copy to file

25 calls

10 district 3

Most members have received vaccine for COVID 19, and proper COVID 19 protocol is being followed. 24 is submitting their quotes for the new software.

Green Knoll Fire Department

Chief Kevin Driscoll

29 calls

94 man hours

Chief 34 submitted the quote to the commissioners earlier this week for a new responding software. Chief 34 also asked for approval to put a plow on the front of the utility.

North Branch Fire Department Chief Dan Russoniello

Copy to file

22 calls

10 in District 3

for the year

Salesman from Seagrave said the truck is not yet on the line and to patient. The salesman said he would let the chief knows when he hears anything. Capital request from this year has been submitted.

Executive Session

Old Business:

Commissioner Larson stated that the \$1700 for LOSAP is only available if you started LOSAP in 1999. Anyone else for a new LOSAP program or a later starting program is \$1150. The raising from \$1075 would have to go through voter approval in 2022. The board would like to consider raising LOSAP from \$1075 to \$1096.

Larson: In favor

Holtz: In favor

Avin: In favor

Holtz: In favor

Mallon: In favor

Motion to not change any rules or regulations of LOSAP by Holtz

Seconded by Hobbs

All in favor

Commissioner Hobbs will be helping Commissioner Larson with LOSAP and will be another point of contact in the upcoming year.

Commissioner Larson stated that he has gone through and closed out the inactive accounts that have been untouched for several years, as per required by the law. Commissioner Larson will reach out to chiefs with a few more names that may need to be purged.

Commissioner Avin send out the COVID guidelines to the chiefs, and has a few minor changes as per the chiefs.

Motion to adopt with the suggested changes by Holtz

Seconded by Larson

All in favor

Chief 34 stated that after talking to Martinsville Fire it is possible to transfer money from Hardyville accounts into the Lincoln accounts. Commissioner Larson stated that after talking to Mr. Braslow it may not be possible. Commissioner Larson stated that he will look further into the matter.

Commissioner Holtz stated that we are slated for an in person election in April. We are going back and forth with Somerset county on how absentee ballots will work. We are trying to get information on who is going to pay for this. Currently, we are all set with the election, we are just waiting to hear on how we are getting

absentee ballots sent. We will not be using an electronic voting machine as we do not see it is necessary. The other issue with Somerset county, is that a representative from other fire districts stated that they are working with an engineering firm to get all of the election maps in order with the fire districts. The DCA asked today why our maps were not submitted, all districts explained that the firm came to them 10 days ago. Everything has been resolved.

Chief 34 will check with the president of Green Knoll fire to ensure that the district can hold the election at the fire house. All COVID-19 policies will be followed.

Commissioner Avin will check with the township to see if we can renew the QPA to next December.

Resolution to renew the QPA has been approved if the township agrees to renew it.

Commissioner Hobbs will be the interim election czar for the election.

Commissioner Holtz will be on the hydrant committee to speak to the town about ensuring that able bodied persons will dig out their fire hydrants after a snowstorm. Chief 34 approached the fire official about creating an ordinance. There currently is not ordinance. The fire official is working on writing one to send to the town. Chief 34 has also made some calls to request new hydrant markers.

Commissioner Mallon will reach out the chiefs regarding pay per call to see their thoughts about this. Commissioner Mallon will also ask about other alternatives to see how we can best make this work.

New Business:

Resolution 2021-1 Authorizing Appointment of Accountant

Larson: Aye

Holtz: Aye

Avin: Aye

Holtz: Aye

Mallon: Aye

Resolution 2021-2 Authorizing the Award of a Non Fair and Open Contract for Accounting Services

*Larson: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Avin: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Mallon: Aye*

Resolution 2021-3 Authorizing Appointment of Attorney

*Larson: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Avin: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Mallon: Aye*

*Resolution 2021-4 Authorizing Award of a Non Fair and Open Contract for
Legal Services*

*Larson: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Avin: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Mallon: Aye*

Resolution 2021-5 Authorizing Appointment of Auditor

*Larson: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Avin: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Mallon: Aye*

*Resolution 2021-6 Authorizing Award of a Non Fair and Open Contract For
Auditing Services*

*Larson: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Avin: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Mallon: Aye*

Resolution 2021-7 Adoption of Cash Management Plan

*Larson: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Avin: Aye*

Holtz: Aye
Mallon: Aye

Resolution 2021-8 Authorizing Regular Meeting Schedule

Larson: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Avin: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Mallon: Aye

Resolution 2021-9 Designation of Official Newspaper

Larson: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Avin: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Mallon: Aye

Resolution 2021-10 Authorizing Approval and Payment of Claims

Larson: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Avin: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Mallon: Aye

Resolution 2021-11 Designating Surety Bonding for Commissioners

Larson: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Avin: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Mallon: Aye

Resolution 2021-12 to swap unused fire hose for different fire hose with Fire District 3 in Franklin Township.

Larson: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Avin: Aye

Holtz: Aye
Mallon: Aye

*Resolution 2021-13 to swap 30 minute air cylinders with fire district 4 in
Bridgewater to receive 45 minute air cylinders*

Larson: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Avin: Aye
Holtz: Aye
Mallon: Aye

Open To Public:
No one requested to speak

Closed to Public
By Chairman Larson

Motion to Adjourn

Motion By: Hobbs
Second By: Holtz

Meeting Adjourned: 8:46 pm
Minutes Submitted By: Comm. Mallon

**Bridgewater Fire District # 3
Commissioners Meeting**

Monthly Minutes

Date: April 21st, 2021

Call To Order 7:00 PM

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: by Chair Larson .

Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A.10:4-6. On April 4, 2021 proper notice was sent to the Courier News and filed with the Clerk at the Township of Bridgewater and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

Please be aware of the district 3 policy for public hearings: The public will be given a chance to speak at the public portion of the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance Called for by Chair Larson

Moment of Silence for Fallen Brothers and Sisters

<u>Roll Call</u>	Comm. Avin	Present
	Comm Holtz	Present
	Comm. Larson	Present
	Comm Hobbs	Present
	Comm. Mallon	Present

Minutes Tabled

Treasurers Report: Submitted by Holtz

Motion to accept Hobbs

Second by Mallon

All in favor

Companies were given their quarterly checks. Suplee Clooney has worked diligently with the board daily along with the DCA to get the exact items needed. The board is waiting on the first payment of the year from Bridgewater Township.

Emergency Services Reports

Bradley Gardens Rescue Squad **Sgt. Herzog**
37 calls total
18 in District 3
Everything is good with the ambulance

Country Hills Fire Department **Chief Larry Bautista**
Copy to file
47 calls
877 man hours for the month
95 calls for the year
Squad 24 had repairs last tuesday. Alternator needs replacing. Bolt loose causing damage. Tank to pump valve also needs rebuilding.

Green Knoll Fire Department **Chief Kevin Driscoll**
26 calls
66 year to date

Transferred over to emergency reporting. Engine 1 supply line has been replaced. Ground ladders have been tested. Automatic aid issue has been addressed and resolved.

North Branch Fire Department **Chief Dan Russoniello**
Copy to file

39 calls
16 in District 3

Seagrave has been back and forth. Salesman of the district has gotten involved. September 20th is the new deliver date (pushed back twice). 108 still leaking water. Covid reason for the delays. Current 108 needs hose, ladder, and pump testing. Pump tests costs about \$500 for the truck. We will revisit this issue in the summer.

Old Business:

QPA has been extended to the end of the year.

Squad 24 waiting on budget results to move forward with the order.

Waiting on a few more members to get their paperwork in for LOSAP

Budget passed 114 Yes, 38 No

Holtz : 145 votes, 3 write ins.

New Business:

Commissioner Mallon will be resigning this meeting due to moving out of area. A replacement secretary must be picked. Another commissioner must be selected to finish out commissioner Mallon's term. Commissioner Larson asked who will be acting secretary. Commissioner Hobbs is willing to replace Commissioner Mallon as secretary for the next meeting.

A replacement must be picked. Commissioner Larson asked how the board felt about Rand Milton as becoming the replacement.

Resolution by name, Resolution to pick a replacement for Commissioner Mallon to have Rand Milton Finish Commissioner Mallon's Term.

Motion: Holtz

Seconded: Avin

Holtz: Yes

Larson: Yes

Mallon: Abstain

Hobbs: Yes

Avin: Yes

Open To Public:

Chief Rue asked for Commissioner Holtz to repeat the election result numbers. Commissioner Holtz stated the importance of coming out to vote on the budget.

Closed to Public
By Chairman Larson

Motion to Adjourn

Motion By: Hobbs
Second By: Holtz

Meeting Adjourned: 7:32 pm
Minutes Submitted By: Comm. Mallon

Fire District #3 Minutes

5/19/21

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:02 pm by President Larson

OATH OF OFFICE: To Commissioners Holtz and Milton by President Larson

ROLL CALL: President Larson-present

Commissioner Avin-present

Commissioner Hobbs- present

Commissioner Holtz-present

Commissioner Milton-present

CHIEFS REPORT

MINUTES: From April- motion by Comm Milton 2nd by Comm Holtz- minutes approved

TREASURES REPORT: From April- Motion by Comm Milton, 2nd Comm Avin- report approved

LOSAP: Discussion, 49 members qualified and total just under \$55,000.00. 1 member has not put in.

OLD BUSINESS:

Report by Doug Rue on new engine for Country Hills. Motion to move forward on purchasing was approved.

Discussion on Bridgewater creating an ordinance for residents to clear snow from hydrants on their property. Chief Driscoll is working on that.

Discussion on North Branch purchasing equipment for their new engine. Motion by Comm Holtz and 2nd by Comm Milton to make the purchase- motion approved.

Discussion on Chief's giving a quarterly budget report- agreed upon that they would present reports so the budgets could be monitored more closely.

Discussion on having agenda for monthly meeting available on 1st Wednesday of the month. It was agreed upon.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on paying bill for Green Knoll Engine 9. Motion by Comm Avin, 2nd by Comm Hobbs to pay the bill- motion passed.

Discussion on marijuana now being legal but firefighters falling under category of a Township employee and therefore cannot operate a vehicle under the influence.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No comments

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Comm Avin, 2nd by Comm Holtz, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Fire District #3 Minutes

6/16/21

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:01 pm by President Larson

ROLL CALL: President Larson-present

Commissioner Avin-present

Commissioner Hobbs- present

Commissioner Holtz-present

Commissioner Milton-present

CHIEFS REPORT

MINUTES: From May- motion by Comm Milton 2nd by Comm Holtz- minutes approved

TREASURES REPORT: From May- Motion by Comm Avin, 2nd Comm Milton- report approved

Resolution: Resolution to certify officers. Roll call vote, resolution passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Contract for North Branch new engine was signed.

Discussion on LOSAP and making modifications to drills and making sure all 3 companies are invited to attend.

Discussion on marijuana and confirming that the district is following Township rules on Workman's Comp policy.

Discussion on updating the website.

Discussion on Country Hills new engine. Contract to be signed after 10 day notice to the public.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on paying bill for Country Hills engine repairs and an additional \$4000.00 cost for repairs.

Motion by Comm Holtz, 2nd by Comm Avin to pay the bill- motion passed.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No comments

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Comm Holtz, 2nd by Comm Milton motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm

Fire District #3 Minutes

7/21/21

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:05 pm by President Larson

ROLL CALL: President Larson-present

Commissioner Avin-present

Commissioner Hobbs- present

Commissioner Holtz-present

Commissioner Milton-present

CHIEFS REPORT

MINUTES: From May- motion by Comm Holtz 2nd by Comm Avin- minutes approved

TREASURES REPORT: From May- Motion by Comm Avin, 2nd Comm Milton- report approved

OLD BUSINESS:

Continued discussion on Engine 108 and delivery in October. Going to bypass the Regional level and go straight to Corporate to get a resolution.

Discussion on LOSAP, check was sent to Lincoln

Continued discussion on fire hydrants ordinance & repairs

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on pagers not going off. Testing the signal at various locations.

Discussion on putting together a list of when certain things are due such as budgets, quarterly reports etc.

Monthly chief's workshop to discuss needs of the dept with the commissioners. Proposed to do it 1st Wednesday of the month to avoid a lag between meetings and to get things done. Comm Avin & Comm Hobbs will participate. 1st meeting Aug 4th.

Discussion on putting together committee for capital expenses. Comm Holtz & Comm Milton will be on the committee.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: Doug Rue thanked the Commissioners for their assistance in getting their new engine approved, contracts signed and getting construction underway

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Comm Avin, 2nd by Comm Milton motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm

Fire District #3 Minutes

8/18/21

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:05 pm by President Larson

ROLL CALL: President Larson-present

Commissioner Avin-present

Commissioner Hobbs- present

Commissioner Holtz-present

Commissioner Milton-present

CHIEFS REPORT

MINUTES: From July- motion by Comm Holtz 2nd by Comm Avin- minutes approved

TREASURES REPORT: From July- Motion by Comm Milton, 2nd Comm Avin- report approved

OLD BUSINESS:

Continued discussion on North Branch Engine: Contacted National Sales Director for Seagrave. Estimated final inspection in November is the 1st week of November

Discussion on pagers not going off. The systems were tested and no problems were found. Going to continue to monitor and if it occurs again, the member needs to document where they were and type of pager.

Discussion on batteries on the radio towers being replaced. Motion by Comm Holtz to have batteries replaced, 2nd by Comm Avin. Motion passed.

Discussion on LOSAP regarding call volume being down and how it could affect members getting required numbers.

Website discussion. It's almost up to date.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on August 3rd Chief's Workshop with Comm Avin and Comm Holtz.

Motion to purchase traffic advisor for the rear of the Green Knoll tanker, not to exceed \$4000.00.

Motion Comm Holtz, 2nd Comm Avin. Motion passed.

.Motion to purchase 8 Scott face masks for Country Hills. Motion Comm Avin, 2nd Comm Milton, motion passed.

Motion to move the September meeting to Sept 22nd due to Jewish holiday Yom Kipur. Motion Comm Holtz, 2nd Comm Avin, motion passed.

Comm Hobbs submitted his resignation letter as he's moving to Raritan in September. Resignation to take affect after the Sept 22nd meeting and a search for a new Commissioner has begun.

North Branch will be holding a 9/11 ceremony on Saturday 9/11 at 9:00am at their firehouse.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No comments

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Comm Avin, 2nd by Comm Milton motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm

Fire District #3 Minutes

9/22/2021

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 pm by Chairman Larson

ROLL CALL: Chairman Larson-present

Commissioner Avin-present

Commissioner Hobbs- present

Commissioner Holtz-present

Commissioner Milton-present and now Secretary

Chairman Larson advised that the certification of meeting notice was sent to the public. He thanked all responders for the excellent work during Hurricane Ida flooding.

MINUTES: From August meeting – motion to accept minute by Commissioner Milton, 2nd by Commissioner Holtz- minutes approved by unanimous vote.

TREASURES REPORT: From August- Motion by Commissioner Milton to accept report , 2nd by Commissioner Avin- bills and financial report approved.

CHIEFS REPORTS:

Bradley Gardens Rescue Squad by Jeff Taylor

35 calls/month, 23 in District 3. The rig is running well. A power stretcher was requested for the 2022 budget at a cost of approximately \$30k. Jeff Taylor will meet with rep to discuss further as there is no state bid/contract price. This is a capital budget item.

Green Knoll Fire Department by Kevin Driscoll

43 call/month, 308 man-hours/month, 2615 man-hours YTD. Engine 34-9 has bumper damage; winch on the rescue is out; tower ladder has some damage from a car accident where the other car was at fault; Deputy Chief's car has a battery problem; and the Fire Official will issue an ordinance on snow removal around fire hydrants.

Country Hills Fire Department by Larry Bautista

50 calls/month, 13 in District 3. The invoice for I am Responding will be sent to the Commissioners.

North Branch Fire Department by Dan Russoniello

44 calls/month, 13 in District 3, 26 in Branchburg, 5 outside of primary coverage area. 286 calls YTD. Fail Safe will be doing pump tests on Monday 9/27 or in October. Pictures of the new Engine received from Seagrave. Final inspection scheduled for early November. Engine 108 is running and "will win inspection" although tank to pump valve leaks. A request was made by Chairman Larson to have Fail Safe certify the pump.

All Chiefs said that responses are good.

OLD BUSINESS:

The District repeater at the Merck tower has been repaired. Problem was a loose wire. A discussion of changing the repeater system to increase coverage followed.

LOSAP discussion followed and the large volume of Ada responses helped firefighters get LOSAP points.

A CEVO class was recommended and Commissioner Holtz will look into setting that up.

Last month's equipment approvals have not been ordered yet.

Per Commissioner Holtz – Audits are being done. Budget work has not started yet.

Chairman Larson advised that items considered as capital requires a special meeting and the public will have to vote on this in February election per DCA. Capital expenditures are outside of the 2% cap increase.

A long discussion on swift water gear and boats followed as quotes were obtained for outfitting North Branch and Country Hills members that are swift water rescue certified. 16 sets of gear and 2 boats with engines and trailers were discussed. A motion not exceed \$30k was made by Commissioner Milton to purchase 16 sets of swift water gear, 2nd by Commissioner Hobbs and passed. Commissioner Avin made a motion not to exceed \$42k to purchase 2 inflatable boats, 2 engines and 2 trailers, 2nd by Commissioner Holtz and passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on radio band frequency change from 500 to 700 band will result in new radios being needed with estimates of \$6k per tri-band portable radio. Chief Driscoll estimates \$270k needed for Green Knoll FD. It was requested that all District #3 departments submit number of radios needed. Radios are capital purchase. Commissioner Milton requested that Chief Driscoll have a radio expert attend the next meeting to further discuss the changeover to the 700 band.

Chief Bautista discussed their need for an air compressor fill station and estimated cost at \$28k. This is a capital purchase and was shelved for next month's meeting.

Commissioner Hobb's resignation letter was accepted as he is moving out of the area. Two individuals in attendance are interested in filling the vacant seat – Ted Bell and Mark Colantoni. Mr. Bell and Mr. Colantoni spoke of their interest, experience and desire to be a commissioner. Mr. Colantoni is a Captain at Country Hills FD and stated he would resign as Captain if appointed to fill the seat. By Resolution, Mark Colantoni was voted in as a Commissioner.

Commissioner Avin advised that she attended North Branch FD's 9/11 Ceremony and said it was very well done and thanked Chief Russoniello for a nice ceremony. Commissioner Holtz recommended that everyone should visit the 9/11 Museum in NYC..

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No comments

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Avin, 2nd by Commissioner Milton, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Fire District #3 Minutes

10/20/2021

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:05 pm by Chairman Larson

ROLL CALL: Chairman Larson-present

Commissioner Avin-present

Commissioner Holtz-present

Commissioner Milton-present and Secretary

Chairman Larson advised that the certification of meeting notice was sent to the public.

Mark Colantoni was sworn in as a new commissioner and is present.

MINUTES: From September meeting – motion to accept minutes by Commissioner Avin, 2nd by Commissioner Holtz- minutes approved by unanimous vote.

TREASURES REPORT: Monthly financial statements given by Commissioner Holtz to Commissioners. Quarterly payments were made to the fire departments. Motion by Commissioner Milton to accept report , 2nd by Commissioner Colantoni - bills and financial report approved by unanimous vote.

CHIEFS REPORTS:

Green Knoll Fire Department by Kevin Driscoll

70 call/month, 665 man-hours/month, 3650 man-hours YTD. Tower 34 hydraulic leak has been fixed; Deputy Chief's car has a battery problem; Ladder 34 will be tested in November; tower ladder has damage from a car accident and adjuster will look at it; Chief asked about using fine money received to be used for training which included a discussion about how fine money is distributed.

North Branch Fire Department by Dan Russoniello

39 Calls for District 3, 62 Calls for Branchburg, 112 total calls/month, 398 calls YTD. Engine 108 won Bridgewater inspection. Hose test and ladder tests were done; the new engine anticipated completion is 1st week in December per Seagrave but won't be in service until after the New Year; requested an additional \$4,100 for swiftwater equipment.

Country Hills Fire Department by Larry Bautista

36 calls/month in District #3, 61 other calls/month for a total of 97 calls/month.

Bradley Gardens Rescue Squad by Jeff Taylor

73 calls/month, 41 in District 3. The rig is running well; Insurance card has expired and needs a new card for the rig. Commissioner Holtz advised he will take care of this.

All Chiefs said that responses and manpower are good for all calls.

Commissioner Larson discussed LOSAP and encouraged Chiefs to schedule a District #3 drill.

Chief 34 advised he is waiting for parts for the arrow stick.

Doug Rue advised that the District #3 repeater is ok and new batteries are on order.

Commissioner Holtz advised that the budget and audit are being worked on with the audit almost completed.

OLD BUSINESS:

A discussion on capital items for the budget was discussed and included items such as the power stretcher for the rescue squad, radios, an air compressor for Country Hills FD, and a Chief's vehicle for Green Knoll FD. A special meeting will be called as the capital budget items will need to go to the voters.

Jeff Taylor advised that the current cost of the power stretcher will be \$22,773, but will see a price increase next year, and will cost \$1,000 to install. He also had another quote for \$53,000 from another vendor.

A discussion on radios and pagers followed with regard to the change in the frequency band coming in the next few years. It was discussed that Bridgewater Township should also check with the other fire districts to see about grants.

Doug Rue of Country Hills FD advised that a pre-construction meeting with Fire & Safety will be scheduled in February for Country Hill's new fire engine.

NEW BUSINESS:

A discussion on a workshop meeting with the Chiefs regarding capital budgeting followed with a date set for November 3rd. Commissioners Milton and Colantone will meet with the Chiefs.

Tom McCartney, President of North Branch Fire Dept, said he would look into FEMA grants for radios. And hiring a grant writer was discussed.

A discussion about Green Knoll's Chief's vehicle followed by a request by Chief Russoniello for additional swift water equipment needed in addition to items on order. A motion was made for additional swiftwater equipment not to exceed \$4,100 was made by Commissioner Milton, 2nd by Commissioner Holtz and passed by unanimous vote. A similar motion was made and passed not to exceed \$3,000 for additional swiftwater equipment for Country Hills FD.

Chief Driscoll brought up a need to replace old airbags for rescue work. Commissioner Avin made a motion to purchase new airbags not to exceed \$17,000; 2nd by Commissioner Colantoni, and passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Larson will look into the liability exposure potential for pump outs of homes that may be damaged during pumpouts. This was brought up by Chief Driscoll's concerns.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No comments

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Milton, 2nd by Commissioner Holtz, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Fire District #3 Minutes

11/17/2021

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 pm by Chairman Larson

ROLL CALL: Chairman Larson-present

Commissioner Avin-present

Commissioner Holtz-present

Commissioner Colantoni-present

Commissioner Milton-present and Secretary

Chairman Larson advised that the certification of meeting notice was sent to the public.

MINUTES: From October meeting – motion to accept minutes by Commissioner Avin, 2nd by Commissioner Holtz- minutes approved by unanimous vote.

TREASURES REPORT: Monthly financial statements given by Commissioner Holtz to Commissioners. Motion by Commissioner Avin to accept report, 2nd by Commissioner Colantoni - bills and financial report approved by unanimous vote.

CHIEFS REPORTS:

Bradley Gardens Rescue Squad by Jeff Taylor

49 calls/month, 34 in District 3. The rig is running well.

Green Knoll Fire Department by Kevin Driscoll

49 calls/month District 3. Tower Engine 9 needs a brake job; parts are coming for the accident and the aerial is out for stress test; Deputy Chief's car battery problem has been solved There will be no hose testing for the remainder of this year due to a shortage of workers to do testing.

North Branch Fire Department by Dan Russoniello

23 Calls for District 3, 57 Calls for Branchburg, 455 calls YTD. New engine is scheduled for final inspection on Dec. 1st. 4 people will be going out to Seagrave. Branchburg is buying 49 a new engine. A purchase order will be cut with Pierce later in November with a 12-14 month anticipated delivery.

Country Hills Fire Department by Larry Bautista

15 calls/month in District #3, 29 calls in Branchburg, 49 total calls/month and 421 calls YTD.

All Chiefs said that responses and manpower are good for all calls.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Larson discussed having a capital budget for the voters.

Commissioner Avin spoke about following up on the proposed county radio frequency change with Bridgewater Council president Howard Norgalis and Councilman Alan Kurdyla; she spoke with Dave Frondheim and was told that Somerset County does not have a plan in place yet for the radio frequency changeover.

A discussion on items needed for the fire departments and rescue squad was discussed with regard to capital and non-capital items. This was as a result of the Nov. 3rd meeting with the Chiefs and Commissioners Milton and Colantoni.

Radios are a priority capital item for all fire chiefs as there is a shortage and many departments are using old outdated radios. Any radios ordered will need to be able to work with existing frequencies as well as the new 700 megahertz band that the county will be switching to for emergency services.

The requests for new radios are as follows:

49 Fire – 6 radios with chargers

34 Fire – 14 radios with chargers

24 Fire - 6 radios with chargers

Total radios to be ordered should be 26. The cost per radio was estimated to be \$7,800 each for an estimated cost of \$202,800

The rescue Squad wants a power stretcher and the cost is approximately \$30,000.

The total for capital items to be purchased for 2022 is \$232,800.

A special Meeting date of December 1st was set for the public to vote for approval of purchasing the radios and power stretcher.

A discussion followed about purchases to be made for non-capital items requested in the Nov. 3rd meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Holtz to make those purchases in an amount not to exceed \$60,000. 2nd was by Commissioner Milton and the passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Larson reported about his conversation with our attorney Richard Braslow regarding liability exposure potential for pump outs of homes that may be damaged during pumpouts. This was brought up by Chief Driscoll's concerns at the October meeting. Commissioner Larson explained that according to Braslow we are protected by good Samaritan laws and should not have any issues.

Chief Driscoll is working with the Bridgewater Fire Official on fire hydrant dig outs during the winter.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No comments

Commissioner Milton advised he would contact Richard Braslow for the exact wording needed and will take care of the December 1st Special Meeting notification to be placed in 2 newspapers and posting in 5 public places.

Commissioner Larson advised that the Election for three commissioners and the next capital budget will be February 19th. Commissioner Holtz asked Commissioner Milton to help with that capital budget.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Avin, 2nd by Commissioner Colantoni, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Fire District #3 Minutes

SPECIAL MEETING

12/1/2021

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:05 pm by Chairman Larson

ROLL CALL: Chairman Larson-present

Commissioner Colantoni-present

Commissioner Milton-present and Secretary

Chairman Milton advised that the meeting notice was sent to two newspapers and copies were posted in public places.

This special was set at the regular November meeting for the public to vote for approval of purchasing the radios and power stretcher.

The special meeting and vote took place at the Green Knoll Fire Department located at 606 North Bridge St., Bridgewater, NJ.

The voting took place from 6:00pm – 9:00pm. A total of 50 eligible voters showed up.

There was a discussion having a minimum of \$150,000 put away each year for future capital purchases.

A further discussion took place on North Branch's request for capital budget money to be used for upgrading the cascade system on the rescue truck. Branchburg Township has indicated a willingness to split this cost.

A review of the 2020-2021 budget took place.

At 9:00pm voting was stopped and the results were:

The results of the ballot questions for the radio and power stretcher that was presented to the voters were:

Purchase of 26 Radios not to exceed \$235,000 - 49 Yes 1 No

Purchase of the power stretcher not to exceed \$30,000 - 48 Yes 2 No

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Milton, 2nd by Commissioner Colantoni, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm

Fire District #3 Minutes

12/15/2021

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:08 pm by Chairman Larson

ROLL CALL: Chairman Larson-present

Commissioner Avin-present

Commissioner Holtz-present

Commissioner Colantoni-present

Commissioner Milton-present and Secretary

Chairman Larson advised that the certification of meeting notice was sent to the public.

MINUTES: From November meeting – motion to accept minutes by Commissioner Avin, 2nd by Commissioner Holtz- minutes approved by unanimous vote.

TREASURES REPORT: Monthly financial statements given by Commissioner Holtz to Commissioners. Motion by Commissioner Milton to accept report, 2nd by Commissioner Colantoni - bills and the financial report were approved by unanimous vote.

CHIEFS REPORTS:

North Branch Fire Department by Dan Russoniello

32 Calls for the month; 487 calls YTD.

Country Hills Fire Department by Larry Bautista

28 calls/month, and 449 calls YTD. Chief 24 wants to purchase a K-12 saw from Home Depot. He also will be stepping down as Chief due to the birth of his baby which is due in March, 2022.

Green Knoll Fire Department by Captain Jim Driscoll

47 calls/month; 430 calls YTD.

Bradley Gardens Rescue Squad by Jeff Taylor

37 calls/month, 25 in District 3. The rig is running well.

All Chiefs said that responses and manpower are good for all calls.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Larson discussed the results of the vote for the Dec. 1st Special Meeting and vote.

For Radio Purchase – 49 YES, 1 NO

For Power Stretcher Purchase – 48 YES, 2 NO

Commissioner Larson advised that the recent vote is the 2nd step in the purchase process and the 3rd step will be at the Feb. 19th, 2022 Election to have final voter approval for the purchases.

Chief Russoniello advised that the new 108 from Seagrave is being lettered and Seagrave has to mount equipment with delivery around Jan. 1st. The old 108 has lights that were supplied by Ed Chabak and will be removed. It will also be drained to prevent freezing and will sit outside when the new 108 arrives. Chief advised he will take care of getting salvage quotes for it.

A new resolution was discussed to allow for the disposition of the old 108 given that it has no value as a viable working fire engine due to its age and mechanical issues.

Captain Jim Driscoll discussed the accident involving the tanker and the driver has been relieved of driving any fire dept apparatus. He mentioned the fire hydrant ordinance is ongoing with Bridgewater Township, but nothing has been done yet.

A discussion followed regarding payments for routine maintenance of fire district apparatus and who shall be responsible for payments. It was decided that regular maintenance and payments will be the responsibility of the fire departments.

Commissioner Milton will handle resolutions and calendar updates and will consult with Richard Braslow on ballot notifications.

Commissioner Larson discussed LOSAP and that 15 days are left for firefighters to get in their points as needed to qualify for LOSAP money. LOSAP money may increase by \$25 next year. LOSAP rules will remain the same except that the district drill requirement is to invite 3 companies to participate. Any district drill costs will be paid by the fire district commissioners.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Holtz discussed the need for hiring a bookkeeper and will get an estimate for the cost for the January meeting as well as possible candidates.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No comments

The commissioners discussed the budget and the different capital items needed. Consultation with Supplee Cooney is needed to move money from the TD Bank account to the Capital Account. Commissioner Holtz will revise and send the budget out as needed. A motion to accept the budget with changes was made by Commissioner Avin and 2nd by Commissioner Colantoni, and was passed by a unanimous vote

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Holtz, 2nd by Commissioner Colantoni, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.