

Fire District #3 Minutes

1/19/2022

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:03 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 public meeting law requirement was met.

MINUTES: From December, 2021 meeting – motion to accept minutes by Commissioner, 2nd by Commissioner Holtz Avin - 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:

Bradley Gardens Rescue Squad by Jeff Taylor

47 calls/month, 21 in District 3, 502 YTD. Most calls were COVID related. The rig was serviced and is running well.

North Branch Fire Department by Dan Russoniello

36 Calls for the month; 191 in District 3, 293 in Branchburg, 523 calls YTD. The old 108 is leaking worse than ever.

Green Knoll Fire Department by Captain Jim Driscoll

46 calls/month, and 476 calls YTD. Engine 1 is fixed, bumper fixed. The tanker is getting fixed and the driver responsible is no longer a driver of rigs. Hose testing has been completed and the tower is getting repaired. Air bags have been ordered.

Country Hills Fire Department by Larry Bautista

26 calls/month; 7 in District 3, 19 into Branchburg, 475 calls YTD. The new engine on order with Peirce will have a pre-build meeting in March.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Larson gave an update on the long overdue engine from Seagrave. Not all of the last work required has been completed. Our attorney suggested a conference call with Seagrave, but Seagrave is hesitant. Commissioner Larson is on top of the situation and expects all to be resolved soon.

The boats and engines that were ordered from for the swiftwater response team are expected to be delivered next week.

An across the board alcohol/drug policy was discussed and a district wide policy will be developed.

Chief Driscoll spoke with the Bridgewater Fire Official and was advised the township will not come up with an ordinance for the digging out of snow around fire hydrants as the township does not want to enforce it.

NEW BUSINESS:

The 2022 budget was presented by Commissioner Holts and discussed. There were no public comments.

\$ 1,011,625 will be raised by taxation

\$ 1,282,325 is the total budget with existing Capital Funds being used to offset the increase

A motion to accept the budget was made by Commissioner Colantoni, 2nd by Commissioner Holtz, and unanimously approved.

A motion for a resolution was proposed by Commissioner Larson to move \$300,000 to the Capital Fund from the Unrestricted Reserves. 2nd by Commissioner Milton and unanimously approved.

A discussion of the required Annual Resolution shown below followed and included raising LOSAP 2.6% to \$1,124/person that qualifies.

Annual Resolutions for New Year

1. Approval of the Audits for the Fiscal Years Ended on December 31, 2019 and 2020
2. Resolution to move \$300,000 to capital reserve
3. Adoption of Temporary Budget for 2022
4. 2022 Adopted Budget Resolution
5. Authorizing Budget Transfers and/or Encumbrances Relative to the 2021 Budget
6. Authorizing Appointment of Attorney for the 2022
7. Authorizing Appointment of Auditor for the 2022 Year
8. Authorizing Appointment of Accountant for the 2022 Year
9. Adoption of Cash management Plan
10. Authorizing Regular Meeting Schedule
11. Designation of Official Newspapers for Publication for the 2022 Year
12. Authorizing Approval and Payment of Claims
13. Designating Surety Bonding for Commissioners
14. Establishing Commissioner Compensation
15. Confirming Board Positions
16. CPI increase for LOSAP (Optional)

It was agreed that a comprehensive motion to approve the above resolutions would be made by Commissioner Larson, 2nd by Commissioner Milton, and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Larson requested that each department submit their 2021 LOSAP list for the March meeting.

The recent audit prepared by Suplee, Clooney & Company for 2019 and 2020 was signed and notarized.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No comments

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Holtz, 2nd by Commissioner Avin, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Fire District #3 Minutes

2/16/2022

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

ROLL CALL: Chairman Larson-present

Commissioner Avin-present

Commissioner Holtz- not present

Commissioner Colantoni-present

Commissioner Milton-present and Secretary

Chairman Larson advised that the public meeting law requirement was met.

MINUTES: From January, 2022 meeting – motion to accept minutes by Commissioner Avin, 2nd by Commissioner Colantoni - minutes approved by unanimous vote.

TREASURES REPORT: Monthly financial statements provided by Commissioner Holtz to Commissioners prior to the meeting inasmuch as he was unable to attend due to a possible Covid exposure. Motion by Commissioner Milton to accept report, 2nd by Commissioner Avin - bills and the financial report were approved by unanimous vote.

CHIEFS REPORTS:

Bradley Gardens Rescue Squad by Jeff Taylor

77 calls/month, 32 in District 3. The number of calls is returning to normal

North Branch Fire Department by Dan Russoniello

49 Calls for the month; 21 in District 3, 28 in Branchburg. The new 108 is now in service. Additional hose needs to be ordered. 90% of the Swiftwater gear order has been delivered. The boats and motors from Firefighter 1 are coming in March and the trailers will be delivered in June. Hunterdon Training Academy will provide training.

Green Knoll Fire Department by Chief Kevin Driscoll

34 calls/month, and 25 in District 3. Engine 341 is waiting for steps to be fixed. Engine 349 repairs are completed. They are still working on the tanker repair issues. The tower will be going out for repairs. Airbags were ordered and are coming in Mar/April. A new hydraulic pump on the rescue is needed. New shelves and 2 new compartments estimated at \$6,650 plus an additional \$5,000 for another compartment. Rescue scene lights need to be upgraded at an estimated cost of \$5,700. Engine 349 needs a brake job plus chains and is estimated at \$8,700.

Country Hills Fire Department by Larry Bautista

45 calls/month; 14 in District 3, 24 into Branchburg. Squad 24 maintenance was completed. The A/C compressor is leaking and there are other leaks. An estimate for those repairs will be made. The engine is working and gets out the door for responses. A NJ boating class and license is needed to operate a boat for swiftwater rescue work and training and it's estimated that 10 guys need the class at \$100/person.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Larson gave an update on new engine from Seagrave. The new engine has some minor fixes needed including getting a replacement for a faulty deck gun sensor. The new engine has a 2 year warranty.

Commissioner Larson estimated LOSAP will have an initial estimate of 55 qualified firefighters at \$62,000 going into the plan. Payment may go in by the end of the first quarter. Treasurer reported that money has been set for payment.

Commissioner Larson advised that while Commissioner Holtz may be home with Covid, plans for the upcoming election are in place. Commissioner Milton will send a budget write-up to the Chiefs to encourage passage of the budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Larson discussed a need to determine regular maintenance costs for vehicles. Commissioner Avin will look into coming up with a policy for this.

Commissioner Larson discussed fine money that is received from Bridgewater Township and how allocations should be made.

Commissioner Larson discussed Commissioner Holtz's request for accounting help. Commissioner Holtz has recommended Deb Brown for this position as she handles bookkeeping functions for Fire District 2. Commissioner Avin suggested that other potential candidates be interviewed and the discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

Commissioner Larson advised that Green Knoll's tanker repair is on hold. It does work and can respond to calls, but we are awaiting inspection and cost estimate for repairs.

The web site was discussed and Commissioner Milton will take care of all the updates including the addition of a monthly meeting agenda. He will contact Bridgewater Township to have them update their Fire District 3 information that is on the township web site.

A discussion followed about Green Knoll's duty crew policy. Chief Driscoll would like attorney Richard Braslow review the policy.

A discussion of a drug policy followed. North Branch and Green Knoll have their own drug/alcohol policies, Country Hills does not have a policy. Chief Driscoll recommended contacting our insurer VFIS for advice.

Doug Rue of Country Hills FD advised that on 2/24 they will have details on the new engine on order. There is a deadline for paperwork. Mid October is the planned delivery date and another 6 weeks will be needed for equipment mounting with Dec. 1 expected completion date.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No comments

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Milton, 2nd by Commissioner Colantoni, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Fire District #3 Minutes

3/16/2022

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 pm by Commissioner Holtz

ROLL CALL: Chairman Larson-present

Commissioner Avin - not present

Commissioner Holtz - present

Commissioner Chabak - present

Commissioner Milton - present and Secretary

Doug Larson, Ed Chabak and Rand Milton were sworn in as commissioners by Commissioner Holtz.

Chairman Larson advised that the public meeting law requirement was met.

The Board reorganized for the year 2022 and the following individuals agreed to serve in the following positions: Doug Larson – Chairman, Teresa Avin – Vice Chairman, Rand Milton – Secretary, Jeffrey Holtz – Treasurer, and Ed Chabak – Member at Large.

MINUTES: From February, 2022 meeting – motion to accept minutes by Commissioner Holtz, 2nd by Commissioner Larson - minutes approved by unanimous vote.

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

CHIEFS REPORTS:

Bradley Gardens Rescue Squad by Jeff Taylor

33 calls/month, 20 in District 3. The rig is running well. Chief Taylor would like to place the order for the power stretcher as approved by the voters regarding the passage of the budget last month.

Green Knoll Fire Department by Chief Kevin Driscoll

33 calls/month, and 25 in District 3. Engine 341 steps have been repaired. Engine 349 repairs are completed. The tanker is getting repaired and the tank was not damaged. The tanker will hopefully be back in service in a week. Airbags and AEDs have arrived. The AEDs were ordered from Continental Fire. The Chief's vehicle needs a break job and some other repairs. The Quickbook's program has been renewed. A discussion followed on the Firehouse Reporting Software.

North Branch Fire Department by Dan Russoniello

21 Calls for the month; 9 in District 3, 12 in Branchburg. The new 108 will be getting a new deck gun sensor and mudflaps. The boats and motors from Firefighter 1 are in. Some swiftwater gear items have not been delivered. A discussion followed on paying the recent invoice from Firefighter 1 as the bill included all shipping charges for items including the trailers which have not been received. Chief Russoniello called Brian Kredatus to confirm that there will be no shipping charges incurred when the trailers arrive. However, no delivery date was provided when asked. A discussion on NJ boating licenses and water rescue training followed.

A request was made for additional hose followed that included 600' of 1 ¾" estimated at \$2,880. And 600' of 2 ½" hose estimated \$3,960. A motion not exceed \$7,000 for the purchase was made by Commissioner Chabak and 2nd by Commissioner Milton and was passed by unanimous vote.

There was a brief discussion of the 5 year plan. A discussion of purchasing the new radios that was approved by the voters followed. The plan is to purchase 12 radios for Green Knoll and 6 radios each for Country Hills and North Branch. There is an expected price increase on April 1st so it was discussed about the need to place the order prior to that date.

Country Hills Fire Department by Larry Bautista

21 calls/month; 8 in District 3, 12 non-District 3. The ESO bill will be sent to Commissioner Holtz for payment. A NJ Boating licensing course will be Sat., April 30th. 25 members are signed up at \$90/per person for a total of \$2,250. The class will be given by the Jack Boating School.

Squad 24 estimate for repairs except for A/C is \$ 5,555.51. The tires are out of DOT spec. A motion not exceed \$6,000 for the repairs was made by Commissioner Chabak and 2nd by Commissioner Milton and was passed by unanimous vote.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Doug Rue gave a report on the status of Country Hills new engine order with Pierce and all is on schedule.

NEW BUSINESS:

The alcohol and drug policy was discussed and is being worked on and Richard Braslow, our attorney, has given his advice. Each company will develop a policy for attorney review.

Commissioner Holtz advised that LOSAP for 2021 will be funded by the end of the month.

Commissioner Holtz advised that the recent election results will be sent to Bridgewater Township so we can get the 1st quarter payment.

Commissioner Larson said the audit was received.

Commissioner Holtz advised he will send Commissioner Milton the approved DCA Budget for putting on the fire district web site.

Commissioner Larson advised the web site is up to date but we need add the list of vendors who received greater than \$ 17,500. for last year.

Commissioner Holtz advised that the candidate for the bookkeeper position has withdrawn her name and will start a new search for a bookkeeper.

All the Commissioners welcomed Ed Chabak as a new commissioner and thanked Mark Colantoni for his past role as a commissioner.

Chief Driscoll advised that there are other fire districts are paying their members per call, and one district is paying \$6/call.

Commissioner Chabak started a discussion about trying to get responses out within 5 minutes from dispatch. There are issues with the county dispatch system in that the pagers and the I Am Responding text system don't always send out alerts at the same time.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No comments

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Holtz, 2nd by Commissioner Milton, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Fire District #3 Minutes

4/20/2022

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

ROLL CALL: Chairman Larson-present

Commissioner Avin - present

Commissioner Holtz - present

Commissioner Chabak - present

Commissioner Milton - present and Secretary

Chairman Larson advised that the public meeting law requirement was met.

MINUTES: From March, 2022 meeting – motion to accept minutes by Commissioner Holtz, 2nd by Commissioner Chabak - minutes approved by unanimous vote.

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

CHIEFS REPORTS:

Country Hills Fire Department by Patrick Doherty

31 calls/month; 10 in District 3, 21 non-District 3. Squad 24 parts were ordered and will take a week to receive them.

North Branch Fire Department by Dan Russoniello

30 calls for the month; 12 in District 3, 27 in Branchburg. A quote was given for ordering the foam included a discussion on what the proper foam is to be used due to environmental concerns. Approval to purchase the foam was given. The new 108 has an air leak and a new deck gun sensor has been ordered. Both are covered under the warranty by Seagrave. The paperwork to register the boats and trailers will be provided after payment is received.

A discussion on the use of purchase orders followed regarding purchases to be made by the Fire District.

Green Knoll Fire Department by Chief Kevin Driscoll

26 calls in District 3. The tanker has been repaired. The Chief's vehicle needs a new water pump. It also needs a new catalytic converter but will wait to do this repair due to the cost.

A discussion followed as the fire departments should see a 2% increase in funding from District 3 based upon Bridgewater Township funding.

A discussion followed regarding manpower and materials reimbursement for Hazmat calls. Chief 34 will provide documents that can be used to bill Bridgewater Township.

Respiratory and medical testing for firefighters was discussed.

A discussion followed on the purchase of radios as approved by the voters. Commissioner Chabak will follow-up and a purchase order will be issued.

Bradley Gardens Rescue Squad by Jeff Taylor

37 calls/month, 22 in District 3. The rig is running well. Chief Taylor plans to place the order for the power stretcher when Rose Witt, Bridgewater Township's QPA, returns from vacation around 4/28.

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

Chief Russoniello asked Commissioner Holtz about the insurance card for the new 108. Commissioner Holtz advised he will check on this.

Commissioner Larson discussed that Lincoln Financial is having IT issues with forms received by them for our members entitled to receive LOSAP.

Commissioner Larson advised that the drug policies by the FD's are good. He also requested fellow commissioners to volunteer to work on next year's capital budget that has an estimated \$300,000 maximum, and Commissioners Milton and Chabak volunteered and will meet in the future with the Chiefs to address their needs.

Commissioners Avin and Larson will work on updating the Fire District's By-Laws.

A discussion followed on a Purchase Order System to be used, and it was agreed that the upcoming radios and power stretcher purchases will be made with purchase orders.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Avin wants to recognize the three North Branch firefighters for their work during storm Ida, as well as the great work performed all the District 3 fire departments and the Rescue Squad. Commissioner Avin will write a proclamation that will be added to the minutes.

May 18th is the 200 Club's award luncheon honoring the three North Branch firefighters for Ida and a motion was made by Commissioner Avin, seconded by Commissioner Milton, and passed unanimously to spend up to \$500 for tickets to attend the luncheon.

May 7th is a fire district drill hosted by 34 and Chief Driscoll for TIMS – Traffic Incident Management System and all District 3 is invited to attend.

A discussion of fine money that is received by Bridgewater Township followed and the township's fire official will be contacted on this.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No comments

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Holtz, 2nd by Commissioner Chabak, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Fire District #3 Minutes

5/18/2022

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:06 pm by Commissioner Larson

ROLL CALL: Chairman Larson-present

Commissioner Avin - present

Commissioner Holtz – not present

Commissioner Chabak - present

Commissioner Milton - present and Secretary

Chairman Larson advised that the public meeting law requirement was met.

MINUTES: From April, 2022 meeting – motion to accept minutes by Commissioner Chabak, 2nd by Commissioner Avin - minutes approved by unanimous vote.

TREASURES REPORT: Monthly financial statements were provided by Commissioner Holtz by a prior email. Motion by Commissioner Milton to accept report, 2nd by Commissioner Chabak - bills and the financial report were approved by unanimous vote.

CHIEFS REPORTS:

Country Hills Fire Department by Patrick Doherty

30 calls/month; 10 in District 3, 20 non-District 3. Squad 24 has had all repairs done, but now the CAFS system is out due to a possible faulty compressor. A quote for the CAFS repair will be provided after it's checked. No news on the new Squad 24.

Bradley Gardens Rescue Squad by Jeff Taylor

50 calls/month, 30 in District 3. The rig is running well. The order for the power stretcher was sent out.

Green Knoll Fire Department by Chief Kevin Driscoll

30 calls/month, and 25 in District 3, 114 calls year-to-date. Rescue 34 had the exhaust system repaired. The Chief's vehicle is going in for a new water pump and other repairs. The pedal cutter failed and will be repaired.

North Branch Fire Department by Dan Russoniello

39 Calls for the month; 16 in District 3, 23 not in District 3, 139 calls year-to-date. The new 108 had a new deck gun sensor installed, and the coolant leak was fixed, but the ongoing air compressor problem has not been fixed and this goes back to when the engine was initially checked in Wisconsin.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Larson briefly discussed possible solutions if manpower issues arise and he is in favor of them if they will get results. He advised that the LOSAP check was signed and mentioned that the personnel at Lincoln Financial work remotely which slowed the reporting process, but that all new eligible fighters were added for LOSAP.

Chief Russoniello discussed North Branch's physical (medical) requirement for all new members and will have all members tested this year. There is a requirement that medical clearance records must be kept for 30 years. Branchburg will pay for all North Branch firefighters to be tested.

Commissioner Avin will check with Bridgewater Township to see what they will do for the other District 3 departments as far as medical fit testing.

Chief Driscoll has been in contact with Christine Madrid at Bridgewater Human Resources and her staff Judy as far as medical fit testing for Green Knoll FD members.

Commissioner Chabak discussed ordering the new radios and he cleared legal requirements with Richard Braslow, our attorney, and Commissioner Holtz issued a purchase order.

Commissioner Larson discussed changes needed to the by-laws and he is working on them.

Commissioner Milton discussed the problem with FF1 installing prop guards on the engines they sold us two months ago. FF1's salesman, Brian Kredatus, agreed to install them over a month ago and that has not happened, and this poses a safety issue. Brian Kredatus was contacted prior to the meeting and he advised he would advise when their technician would do the prop guard installation.

A discussion followed on North Branch's recent boat drills at RVCC's pool and all went well. A discussion followed of rescue net usage on recovering large victims Commissioner Milton pointed out that Country Hill FD has installed a very good rescue net system on their boat.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Chabak discussed having a dual response system Monday-Friday from 6am – 6pm when manpower is light for responses. Chief Russoniello advised the North Branch has a dual response system in place. Chief Driscoll runs a single response now and has concerns there may be a morale problem if he goes dual response. Commissioner Chabak advised that Findern's chief told him that all their members live outside their primary coverage area and they occasionally have manpower issues. Commissioner Chabak has concerns that the Commissioners may be responsible to provide fire protection coverage, but will see if this becomes an ongoing problem going forward.

Commissioner Avin discussed recruiting as its difficult getting our diverse community members to volunteer. Commissioner Milton suggested that Bridgewater's Mayor should send out information, as part of his regular monthly e-mail blasts to residents, to encourage them to volunteer.

Commissioner Chabak discussed the recent bad motor vehicle crash and difficult extrication needed to get the critically injured woman out of her vehicle. Everyone did a great job and the RWJ EMS chief sent a note thanking the firefighters for a job well done.

Chief Driscoll advised the recent TIMS (Traffic Incident Command System) class was very good. He wants to send more firefighters to a class scheduled for August 5th. Chief Driscoll and Commissioner Chabak feel that there are still safety issues with State Police in closing highways.

Commissioner Larson discussed a proposed special meetings regulation initiated by a politician in Bergen County limiting the number of special meetings a fire district may have per year.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No comments

Chief Driscoll discussed the capital budget for next year of approximately \$300k. Commissioners Chabak and Milton will work on scheduling a meeting with all the chiefs to discuss their capital equipment needs

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Chabak, 2nd by Commissioner Avin, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Fire District #3 Minutes

6/15/2022

Meeting called to order 7pm by Commissioner Larson

Roll Call :

Commissioner Larson- Present

Commissioner Avin – Present and acting Secretary

Commissioner Holtz- Present

Commissioner Chabak - Present

Commissioner Milton- absent

Chairperson Larson advised that the certification of meeting notice was sent to the public and the public meeting law has been met.

Motion to accept the May minutes- all present approved the May minutes

Motion to pay the bills - - all present approved – Printer is having some problems printing checks. Commissioner Holts advised the problem will be fixed within a week.

Motion to accept the Treasurer report: All present accepted the May Treasurers report

CHIEF REPORTS

Bradley Gardens: Emergency service reports 51 calls 20 in District 3. The stretcher parts have been ordered.

Green Knoll: 42 calls - 165 ytd - mutual aid at the diner - PMs are completed on the apparatus - chiefs cars need inspections. catalytic converter needs attention. Extrication training 3 day span- Green Knoll now has 11 additional people up to tech and country hills had 2 additional members. The next classes will be hosted by Bradley Gardens at the Bradley Gardens Fire Station on August 12th at 6pm.

Setting up ICS 200 class. The class being offered can accommodate 30 people. Chief Driscoll asked if this can this be a district drill class and paid for by the district. \$2000 plus meals. They will have 2 instructors for 30 people. District agreed to pay for the drill.

Invoice for the valves in the back of the tanker. To be paid

North Branch: 31 calls - 170 ytd - firehouse software upgrade is needed to migrate to new software in September – commission pays. Quote to update \$1375.

Mounting of saws needs to be completed for the new engine - Paid by the commission.

Country Hills: 27 calls - 154 calls ytd – district# 3 had 11 calls and non district 17 calls

Compressor on the old squad needs work. Cad system. New Pierce salesman said the tentative inspection for the new vehicle is September 2nd.

Old Business:

Damaged markers are being replaced by the water company. Waiting on Chiefs to identify the Hydrants that need marker replacements.

Commissioners Milton and Chabak will be meeting with the Chiefs within the next 2 months to discuss Capitol expenses for the next 5 years.

Commissioners Larson noted there is \$300,000 in capitol for spending account. These items are a need, not a want.

Radios are ordered, delivery date tbd. Motorola has a 12 month back order.

June lease payment for 498 was paid for the year.

Commissioner Holtz brought up the anonymous email sent to the commissioners. He asked the person who wrote the email to please come forward. No one stepped forward to claim ownership. Jeff went on to say that an anonymous e-mail was inappropriate. If there's a problem, that person needs to come forward to resolve any issues they feel are necessary. We discussed the importance of going to the chiefs and commissioners when there is a problem. Working together to ensure safety for all and if there is a problem it should be brought directly to the chiefs. Chief Driscoll spoke about his experience and his qualifications and assured the commissioners that they were following the proper protocols. He also acknowledged that there are times when staffing is light.

Chief Russiniello - 1 year to order a new chiefs vehicle for north Branch.

The Governor's Grant deadline is August. Tom will look in pricing a grant writer.

Robert Terracciano from Green Knoll fire department brought up that there is an annual air pack grant we should be looking into.

Motion to Adjourn made by Commissioner Avin, 2nd by Commissioner Holtz, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Fire District #3 Minutes

7/20/2022

Meeting called to order 7:02 pm by Commissioner Larson

Roll Call:

Commissioner Larson- Present

Commissioner Avin – Present

Commissioner Holtz- Present

Commissioner Chabak - Present

Commissioner Milton - Present

Chairperson Larson advised that the certification of meeting notice was sent to the public and the public meeting law has been met.

Motion to accept the June minutes by Commissioner Holtz and Seconded by Commissioner Avin - all present approved the June minutes with minor changes

Commissioner Holtz advised that Bridgewater Township paid ¼ of the amount due to the Fire District and checks were written to the Fire Departments. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report and to pay the bills was made by Commissioner Avin and Seconded by Commissioner Milton - all present approved the motion.

CHIEF REPORTS

Bradley Gardens: Jeff Taylor advised 62 calls for the month with 33 call in District 3. The rig is running well. The power stretcher has been ordered and delivery is expected by the end of the month.

Green Knoll: Chief Driscoll advised 39 calls for the month. New scene lights were installed on the rescue. The truck fire on Rt. 287 may have damaged hoses and a claim was filed per the HazMat ordinance with Bridgewater Township. An ICS 200 class is being offered in the future and 7-8 Fire District 3 people are already interested with 15 people already signed up. A discussion followed about adding another company for mutual aid responses when manpower is light.

North Branch: Chief Russoniello advised 40 calls for the month: 19 in District 3, 19 in Branchburg, and 2 in Hunterdon County. He advised that there are still issues with the new 108 and a car fire line needs to be added. Country Hills and North Branch will be going to Round Valley Reservoir to train with the new rescue boats.

Country Hills: Chief Dougherty advises 22 calls for the month: 6 in District 3 and 16 out of District 3. The new squad is set to have final inspection in early October with delivery at the end of October. The Chief advises that all of their helmets are reaching 10 years old which is the end of life per

NFPA. He estimates cost of \$8700 for new helmets – approximately 15 new helmets needed. A discussion followed about the 10 year NFPA advisory and that helmets should be inspected twice per year, and that only Country Hills had a need for new helmets.

Old business:

Commissioner Larson requested financial budget information to be sent in from all the fire departments.

Commissioner Larson advised that radios are ordered and Commissioner Chabak will follow-up on the delivery dates.

A discussion on having a capital budget meeting with the Chiefs followed by a discussion of hiring a grant writer to assist North Branch in getting a grant to replace the cascade system on their rescue.

Commissioner Chabak made a motion to pay for a grant writer but North Branch has to hire the grant writer. The motion was for an amount not to exceed \$15,000 and seconded by Commissioner Holtz and all present voted yes to approve.

Both Country Hills and North Branch advise all is ok with the new boats, engines and trailers.

Commissioner Avin will follow up with Mayor Moench on getting volunteers to join the fire departments and will see about having Bridgewater Township include in their periodic mass emails information and incentives to join the fire departments.

Chief Driscoll brought up fire hydrant marking replacements.

NEW BUSINESS: A discussion was had about raising additional capital to pay for future apparatus purchases that will be needed in 10-15 years.

Commissioner Holtz requested tax info for First Due Fabricators that did work for North Branch. Chief Russoniello will contact this vendor to supply the needed document.

Commissioner Holtz discussed emails and advised all that emails sent to Commissioners@bridgewaterfiredistrict3.com goes to all of the commissioners. Individual emails to specific commissioners can also be sent and they are listed on the Fire District web site.

Chief Driscoll advised that scene lights were purchased for \$12,212.23 for the rescue truck. He advised that the commissioners turned down a prior request for this upgrade when the cost was \$7,000 at the time. Commissioner Chabak made a motion to pay the full cost of \$12,212.23, Commissioner Avin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The next Fire District Commissioners meeting will be held August 17th at Country Hills Fire Dept.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No comments

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

Fire District #3 Minutes

8/17/2022

Meeting called to order 7:10 pm by Commissioner Larson

Roll Call:

Commissioner Larson- Present

Commissioner Avin - Present

Commissioner Holtz- Present

Commissioner Chabak - Present

Commissioner Milton - Present

Chairperson Larson advised that the certification of meeting notice was sent to the public and the public meeting law has been met.

Motion to accept the July minutes by Commissioner Holtz and Seconded by Commissioner Chabak - all present voted to approve the July minutes.

Commissioner Holtz advised that financial reports and bills were sent to commissioners.

Commissioner Milton made a motion to pay the bills, Commissioner Avin seconded the motion, and all present voted to approve the motion to pay the bills.

CHIEF REPORTS

North Branch: Chief Russoniello advised 48 calls for the month and 258 calls Year to Date. He advised that there are still issues with the new 108's Foam line and with the car fire line. He advised that \$1,000 worth of foam leaked out due to a plumbing issue that is Seagrave's fault. Commissioner Holtz will contact Seagrave to have them pay for replacement foam.

Fire House software needs to be upgraded and that bill will be sent directly to Commissioner Holtz for payment.

Chief advised that 700' of 5" hose from 108 was lost due to hose testing and that new hose was purchased to replace it. Commissioner Milton asked the Chief if he was looking for reimbursement and the Chief said yes.

Country Hills: Chief Dougherty advises 48 calls for the month: 33 calls in District 3 and 224 calls Year to Date. Chief advised that FF1 came to do repairs on Squad 24 for filter work. The bill came to \$3390.12 to fix and repair filters and would like reimbursement.

A discussion followed on last month's request for helmets. Commissioner Milton said the Chief provided a quote late afternoon of today's meeting even though it was dated 7/20. Commissioner Milton advised the Chief that receiving the quote the day of the meeting didn't allow for any time to review the cost and to see if other companies would need new helmets. The quote was for 15 new

helmets for a cost of \$7332.90. Commissioner Chabak made a motion to buy all 15 helmets, Commissioner Holtz seconded the motion, and all present voted to approve the motion to buy 15 new helmets.

Chief advised that the new engine should be here by the end of the year.

Green Knoll: Chief Driscoll advised 44 calls for the month and 248 calls Year to Date. Engine 9 and the Tanker had old lights replaced with LEDs. He is waiting for parts for the Holmatro pump that was ordered last year but not yet received. The rescue air bags arrived and were used on a rescue and worked well.

Chief Driscoll advised that PA gives tax abatements for all volunteers. Commissioner Avin brought up tax abatements and other incentives at her meeting with Bridgewater Township officials. She advised that the township web site has been recently updated to show benefits for volunteers. The Mayor's email blast to residents yielded 5 responses for volunteers. One of those responses came from Commissioner Milton to test their system and Chief Russoniello advised that he received that request from the township. Commissioner Avin discussed other ideas Bridgewater Township is considering. A discussion followed as to what qualifies for benefits for firefighters.

Chief Driscoll advised that the AFFF foam that he uses may no longer be covered by VFIS insurance. Country Hills also uses this particular foam.

Chief Driscoll advised that their grant writer was not able to complete their grant request due to the state not providing information in time.

Bradley Gardens: Jeff Taylor advised 63 calls for the month with 34 call in District 3 and 421 call Year to Date. The rig is running well and the power stretcher should arrive within a week.

Old Business:

Commissioner Larson advised that LOSAP has been a problem as the person he has been working with at Lincoln Financial retired in the spring.

A lengthy discussion followed on radios and Commissioner Larson advised that Dave Frauenheim of Somerset County advised that the changeover to the 700 MGZ will happen in 2025 for Fire and EMS. The District repeater will still be maintained by the county. Limits on radio identifiers on the trunking system was discussed as there is a limit of 40 identifiers per fire department.

A discussion of the capital budget followed concerning the spending of \$300,000 on radios. All chiefs and commissioners agreed the money should be used to buy more radios.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Larson discussed raising the Capital Budget for the Sept. 21 meeting and how there is a year delay from when a budget is approved as to when capital purchases can be made.

Commissioner Avin discussed how to publicize what firefighters do as far as protecting and serving the town and how to let the public know what we do so that residents will support us.

Commissioner Holtz briefly discussed the history of Fire District 3 and how Country Hills and North Branch were invited to join in providing service to the town.

A discussion followed on how companies respond to calls that included using non-district fire companies on some calls.

Commissioner Milton advised the Chiefs on the new Excel spreadsheet to be used as a uniform system for budgeting and showing expenses of fire district money.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No comments

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Avin, 2nd by Commissioner Milton, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Fire District #3 Minutes

9/21/2022

Meeting called to order 7:04 pm by Commissioner Larson

Roll Call:

Commissioner Larson- Present

Commissioner Avin - Present

Commissioner Holtz- Present

Commissioner Chabak - Present

Commissioner Milton - Present

Chairperson Larson advised that the certification of meeting notice was sent to the public and the public meeting law has been met. Commissioner Larson also advised that the meeting will operate under Robert's Rules.

Motion to accept the August minutes by Commissioner Avin and Seconded by Commissioner Holtz - all present voted to approve the July minutes.

Commissioner Holtz advised that financial reports and bills were sent to commissioners.

Commissioner Milton made a motion to pay the bills, Seconded by Commissioner Chabak - all present voted to approve the financial reports and to pay the bills.

CHIEF REPORTS

Bradley Gardens: Jeff Taylor advised 46 calls for the month with 29 calls in District The rig is running well and the power stretcher is in service.

Green Knoll: Chief Driscoll advised 46 calls for the month and 283 calls Year to Date. The tanker has issues with air leaks.

He also has issues with the proposed financial reporting system as proposed by Commissioner Milton regarding the budgeting and expenditures of fire district monies received. Commissioner Milton responded via email but Chief Driscoll said he didn't see the email.

Chief Driscoll sent in a report requesting 6 new helmets. He also advised that Junior firefighters are not allowed to go on mutual aid calls.

North Branch: Chief Russoniello advised 43 calls for the month and 18 call into District 3 as well as 25 calls out of the area. He sent in 3 quotes for 10 new helmets, 700' of 5 inch hose and for reporting software. He advised that ESO bought out Firehouse Software.

Chief Russoniello there is an identifiers issue with the new radios as they cannot be programmed until the issue is resolved with identifiers being issued by Somerset County. The county wants to limit the number of identifiers issued.

There is also 55 gallons of old foam that must be disposed of that is at 49. Commissioner Holtz was unsuccessful about getting reimbursement from Seagrave for the foam leak on the new fire engine.

Chief Russoniello advised that I Am Responding needs to be renewed for 24 and 49 fire.

A motion was made by Commissioner Avin to pay the bills for replacement foam, ESO, and I Am Responding. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chabak - all present voted to approve and pay those bills.

Country Hills: Chief Dougherty advises 33 calls for the month: 15 calls in District 3, 18 calls outside of District 3 and 272 calls Year to Date.

Chief advised that the new engine's final inspection will be the week before Thanksgiving with delivery expected before the end of the year.

Chief doesn't want to do the financial Excel sheet as proposed by Commissioner Milton.

Doug Rue gave a report that the new engine and it will hopefully be ready in 2 months. He also advised that the license for the 500 MZ repeater is due up for renewal. The license is for 10 years and will cost approximately \$1,000 to renew. Duog Rue will arrange for the license to be issued to the Fire District 3 Commissioners. He also discussed that Somerset County has new personnel and difficulties with dealing with the new 700 MZ system. Doug Larson advised that the county will keep the existing 500 MZ system.

At this point, the Commissioners went into a closed session meeting for approximate 50 minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Larson advised that written contracts will be written for each company. He requested quarterly financial reports be provided by the companies for the next meeting. He stated that a separate account must be done by each company for District 3 money.

New helmet quotes were provided by North Branch and Green Knoll fire companies. A motion to pay and not to exceed \$5,755 for this purchase was made by Commissioner Holtz and seconded by Commissioner Chabak - all present voted to approve the motion.

Commissioner Avin started a discussion on getting information out to the public about the fire departments and that they are 100% volunteer. Ideas mentioned to inform the public were the Bridgewater Breeze and the various fire department Facebook and social media pages.

Commissioner Larson discussed the need for getting radio identifiers. He suggested tabling a discussion on the \$300,000 needed for additional new radios until the next meeting.

Commissioner Milton made a motion to spend \$300,000 on new radios that will need to have the voter approval, seconded by Commissioner Chabak - all present voted to approve the motion.

The Commissioners agreed to hold a Special Meeting on October 19th from 6-9 pm to secure voter approval for the purchase of 30 portable radios for an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

The Fire Commissioners then discussed holding a Workshop Meeting on October 17th to discuss a possible increase to taxes and the importance to let the public know what it costs to outfit a firefighter. A 10 day written public notification to the papers is needed for Workshop Meeting and the Special Meeting and Commissioner Milton will take care of notifying the 2 newspapers.

OLD BUSINESS: None

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No comments

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Holtz, 2nd by Commissioner Chabak, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Fire District #3 Minutes

10/19/2022

Meeting called to order 7:02 pm by Commissioner Larson

Roll Call:

Commissioner Larson- Present

Commissioner Avin - Present

Commissioner Holtz- Present

Commissioner Chabak - Present

Commissioner Milton - Present

Chairperson Larson advised that the certification of meeting notice was sent to the public and the public meeting law has been met.

Motion to accept the September minutes with a slight change was by Commissioner Avin and Seconded by Commissioner Larson - all present voted to approve the September minutes.

Commissioner Holtz advised that the quarterly payment by Bridgewater Township was received. Commissioner Holtz distributed the Audit Reports from Suplee Clooney for the years ended 12/31/2021 and 2020. The financial reports and bills were sent to commissioners. Commissioner Chabak made a motion to pay the bills, Seconded by Commissioner Avin - all present voted to approve the financial reports and to pay the bills.

CHIEF REPORTS

Bradley Gardens: Jeff Taylor advised 502 Year to Date and is up compared to last year. The rig is running well and the power stretcher is good.

Green Knoll: Chief Driscoll advised 30 calls for the month and 313 calls Year to Date. Engines 341 and 349 had coolant issues that were fixed. The tanker air leak was repaired and the bucket on the tower ladder was fixed. The Chief's vehicle will be getting 2 new tires. The new radios are in service. The Chief apologized for the late sending of his reports.

Chief Driscoll would like the Bridgewater Township fine money be used for tools costing \$4134, but only \$3500 is indicated as fine money. Commissioner Holtz advised that he sent an invoice to Bridgewater Township and is waiting for the receipt of fine money from the township. A discussion followed regarding fine money and how it should go to responding companies. Commissioner Larson said that \$3500 can be used for the tool purchase with the balance to be paid by Green Knoll FD.

A discussion followed regarding the last purchase of radios for \$228,336 and that money can be used for to purchase radio holsters and straps. Green Knoll had a quote for 20 and will increase the

order to 36 holsters and straps for a total of \$4500. A motion was made by Commissioner Chabak to purchase 36 holsters and straps for \$4500 and seconded by Commissioner Milton. All present voted to approve the motion.

North Branch: Deputy Chief Zois Pournaras advised 24 calls for the month, and 330 Year to Date, with 7 calls, 13 in Branchburg, 2 mutual and 2 calls out of the area. The leak on the boat was fixed and the leak on 108's transcooler was fixed. A purchase order for new helmets was confirmed by Commissioner Holtz.

Country Hills: Chief Dougherty advises 22 calls for the month: 16 calls in District 3, 6 calls outside of District 3 and 297 calls Year to Date.

Chief advised that the new engine's delivery expected before the end of the November. Chief advised that new helmets arrived.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Larson started a discussion on a resolution for Commissioner's compensation that must go to the Township. Commissioner Holtz advised that Franklin Fire District #1 commissioners receive \$8,000 per year plus a car. A resolution motion was made by Commissioner Avin that the compensation received by the commissioners will remain the same as before. It was seconded by Commissioner Chabak, and all present voted to approve the motion.

A discussion followed on increasing the budget by \$500,000 to allow for future increases in expenditures and to anticipate future capital purchases of apparatus. The current tax rate is .019 and the discussion was to increase this to .028. Commissioner Chabak advised that the Fire District received \$993,000 in 2021 and 2022 will be around \$1 million. The \$500,000 increase would be effective in 2024, but it would need to be on the ballot for the February 2023 election.

Commissioners Larson and Chabak mentioned that we have the lowest fire tax rate in the county and they encourages all in attendance to get the word out to help pass the budget. The budget information was discussed at the Commissioners Workshop Meeting held on 10/17.

It was discussed that if the budget does not pass, it will go to the Bridgewater Township council for a vote of approval.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Avin started a discussion on communications to the public in letting them know that our fire departments are 100 % volunteer.

A discussion followed on the having the fire departments provide financial reports of how fire district money is spent. It was agreed that quarterly reports will be required and that the reports will need to be uniform as part of the new contracts with the fire departments. This will be discussed at the next workshop meeting.

Commissioner Larson discussed having a recruitment and retention program and maybe a stipend for call responses should be considered for firefighters. Commissioner Chabak talked about limiting

the amount to only those who complete their LOSAP requirement would be eligible and capping it at \$599 to stay under the 1099 reports needed to be given to each firefighter.

Deputy Chief Zois Pournaras will run North Branch's response numbers to get an idea of how many of his firefighters would be eligible for the stipend in addition to LOSAP. It's possible this may need to go to the voters for approval.

Commissioner Avin suggested that the monthly meetings should start 30 minutes earlier in closed session. Commissioner Larson advised that this may need to be publicized.

It was discussed that another Commissioners Workshop Meeting is needed to discuss the budget, contracts and a By-Laws review. It was agreed that Monday November 14th would be best. A motion was made by Commissioner Avin to hold a Workshop Meeting on November 14th at 7pm at Green Knoll's fire house. Commissioner Milton seconded the motion and all present voted to approve the motion.

Commissioner Larson requested that chiefs consider adding a District 3 drill. Commissioner Chabak stated that the Blood Bourne Pathogens/Right to Know class that each fire department has should qualify as a District 3 drill. He advised that the state requires that all riding members have to take Blood Bourne Pathogens/Right to Know class.

Commissioner Holtz received bills from Green Knoll for reimbursement of \$9640 for apparatus maintenance. Commissioner Holtz made a motion to reimburse Green Knoll fire department in the amount of \$9640. It was seconded by Commissioner Chabak and all present voted to approve the motion.

Commissioner Holtz advised the result of the October 19th election to approve the capital purchase of 30 portable radios at a cost not to exceed \$300,000 passed by a vote of 46 Yes – 0 No.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No comments

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Chabak, 2nd by Commissioner Milton, and all present voted to approve the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Fire District #3 Minutes

11/16/2022

Meeting called to order 7:00 pm by Commissioner Larson

Roll Call:

Commissioner Larson- Present

Commissioner Avin - Present

Commissioner Holtz- Present

Commissioner Chabak - Absent

Commissioner Milton - Present

Chairperson Larson advised that the certification of meeting notice was sent to the public and the public meeting law has been met.

Motion to accept the October minutes was made by Commissioner Holtz and Seconded by Commissioner Milton - all present voted to approve the October minutes.

Commissioner Holtz reported the financial reports and bills were sent to all of the commissioners. Commissioner Milton made a motion to pay the bills, Seconded by Commissioner Avin - all present voted to approve the financial reports and to pay the bills.

CHIEF REPORTS

Bradley Gardens: Jeff Taylor advised 68 calls last month with 34 in District 3, and 555 Year to Date. The rig is running well and the power stretcher is good.

Green Knoll: Deputy Chief Resker advised 43 calls for the month and 374 calls Year to Date. Engines 341 and 349 had coolant issues that were fixed. The tanker is getting a deck gun and additional equipment has been ordered. An 8 hour lecture at Finderne's fire house has been scheduled and requests that \$750 per Fire District 3 companies be paid to attend. A motion by Commissioner Milton was made to approve \$750 payments for each attending company and that the drill be classified as a District 3 drill. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Holtz and all present voted to approve the motion.

North Branch: Chief Dan Russoniello advised 37 calls for the month, and 369 Year to Date. 49-108 is running well. ESO, the software for generating call reports, is getting updated and will be used starting Jan. 1st. The grant request for the rescue truck refurbishment was turned down.

A discussion followed regarding the disposal of old foam. The Chief wants additional extrication tools for next year.

There was a discussion that North Branch's budget for 2023 I needed as the Fire District budget deadline for submission is December 20th.

Country Hills: No representative was present to give a report.

Commissioner Larson discussed that we must have an approved budget and that we need another workshop meeting. He mentioned that at the last workshop, the commission was leaning toward just a 2% increase for operating expenses, no Cap Waiver and an increase of \$500,000 in capital money making the budget \$1.5 million, an amount to be raised by taxation. The budget total will also need to include \$300,000 for new radios bringing the total budget to 1.8 million. We will need voter support for the budget in the February 18th election.

There was a discussion that North Branch's budget for 2023 is needed as the Fire District budget deadline for submission is December 20th.

Commissioner Larson advised that the attorney Richard Braslow is reviewing the contracts with the fire departments and also advised that financial reports have been received from the fire departments.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Avin made a motion to amend the commissioner compensation resolution to issue payments of \$250 per meeting, not to exceed \$4,000 per year. Commissioner Milton seconded the motion. Commissioners Holtz, Milton and Avin voted Yes; Commissioner Larson voted No; the resolution passed.

Commissioner Larson advised that progress is being made on amending the By-Laws.

A discussion followed about radio transmissions and that apparatus and crew size need to be transmitted when responding to calls.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Avin would like to have an agenda prior to each meeting.

Commissioner Milton discussed the new M & W bill that was received for programming the new radios. Commissioner Holtz made a motion that the M & W radio programming bills received by the companies be paid. Commissioner Avin seconded the motion, and all present voted to pass the motion.

Commissioner Holtz advised that two commissioner seats will be up for election on February 18th. Commissioner Milton will handle petitions for those candidates interested in running.

The next Workshop meeting is scheduled for Dec. 14th at 7 pm at Green Knoll's fire house.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: Doug Rue advised that the new engine for Country Hills fire department is in its final stages. On December 10th, two members of their fire department will do the final inspection and then the engine will go to Fire & Safety for the final mounting of equipment. Delivery is anticipated for January 1st.

Doug Rue also advised that the radio license has been approved. We may also need to go to narrow banding and M & W will handle that programming.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Avin, 2nd by Commissioner Holtz, and all present voted to approve the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Fire District #3 Minutes

12/21/2022

Meeting called to order 7:02 pm by Commissioner Larson

Roll Call:

Commissioner Larson- Present

Commissioner Avin - Present

Commissioner Holtz- Present

Commissioner Chabak - Absent

Commissioner Milton - Present

Chairperson Larson advised that the certification of meeting notice was sent to the public and the public meeting law has been met.

Motion to accept the November minutes was made by Commissioner Holtz and Seconded by Commissioner Larson - all present voted to approve the November minutes.

Commissioner Holtz reported the financial reports and bills were sent to all of the commissioners. Commissioner Milton made a motion to pay the bills, Seconded by Commissioner Holtz - all present voted to approve the financial reports and to pay the bills.

CHIEF REPORTS

Country Hills: Chief Pat Doherty reported 39 calls for the month, 11 in District 3 and 28 non-District 3 calls, and 365 calls Year to Date. Chief Doherty and Dep. Chief Bautista went to Wisconsin to inspect the new Squad 24 apparatus and all looks good.

North Branch: Chief Dan Russoniello advised 28 calls for the month with 11 in District 3 and 17 non-District 3 calls, and 390 calls. 49-108 has a shimmy when running and Seagrave is coming out to look at it. Chief asked about the expiration date on Seagraves warranty on 108. He also wants boat accessories for next year. Commissioners Milton and Larson asked for a revised budget of the money North Branch receives solely from District 3. Commissioner Larson advised that \$10,000 would be bay rental money for 108.

Green Knoll: Deputy Chief Resker advised 34 calls for the month and 387 calls Year to Date. The tanker got a new deck gun installed and 18 new bottles were purchased at \$200/each.

Bradley Gardens: Jeff Taylor advised 50 calls last month with 24 in District 3, and 622 Year to Date. The rig is running well except for a cabinet door and lock issue.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Larson requests invoices to be received 7 days prior to any monthly meeting except if it is for an emergency purchase or repair.

Commissioner Larson advised that the District 3 budget has been electronically uploaded to the state of NJ FAST system

Commissioner Larson advised that there was a 2% increase in the operating budget and \$200k was moved into the capital account. He also advised the 2023 budget will be increasing taxes by \$500k and we need to get the word out for public support of the tax increase.

Commissioner Larson advised that the updated contract with the fire departments is almost done and is awaiting for Richard Braslow's approval, and then it will be sent to the Chiefs. He also stated that the By-Laws are getting close to completion, and that no line or executive officer or trustee can be a Fire Commissioner.

Commissioner Holtz is working on disposing of old Squad 24. To be usable, it cannot be stored outside in the winter.

Chief 49 asked about the disposal of old foam that is still at North Branch. Commissioner Larson advised that disposal would cost \$1500-2000. Commissioner Holtz said he would look into finding a hazmat company to dispose of it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pieter Scholte, a member of North Branch Fire Dept for 15 years, submitted a Candidacy Petition to run for Fire Commissioner. It was returned to him as it needed to be notarized.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: Nothing

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Commissioner Milton, 2nd by Commissioner Holtz, and all present voted to approve the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.