

**PORT READING BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2
PORT READING, NJ 07064
November 13, 2012**

The Board Accountant read the "Open Meeting Act" requirements. The Port Reading Board of Fire Commissioners Monthly Public Meeting of November 13 was called to order by Commissioner Nardiello at 7:30 pm. All five Commissioners were present: Comm. Nardiello, Comm. Galvach, Comm. Huber, Comm Zullo and Comm. Santorelli. Board Accountants John Ur and Maria Bucsanszky were present. Board Attorney Tom Buck was present. Board Clerk Marianne DeSantis was present.

Comm. Nardiello explained that due to the October 29 storm and the power being out the meeting had to be postponed until this evening and the distribution of the minutes was delayed until today.

Reviewed minutes from the October 1, 2012 monthly meeting.

Comm. Nardiello praised the career and volunteer staff for going above and beyond during the hurricane and thanked the Chief and all involved for their efforts in some very treacherous situations.

Comm. Nardiello reported that a few more portable pumps will need to be purchased and a small boat in the event of any future storms. Comm. Nardiello reported that approximately 35 residents were rescued thanks to a row boat that one of our volunteer firefighters provided.

Comm. Nardiello made a correction to the October minutes that Comm. Zullo voted to approve all of the September bills, but refrained from voting on the bill for "Matt Rizitis" for \$106.94. Comm. Nardiello also made the correction that Comm. Galvach voted to approve the Captain's September report, with the exception of Items 9/14/2012 and 9/18/2012

Comm. Nardeillo stated for the record that the monthly meetings will be posted to the website once they are approved by the Board.

MOTION to accept the November 13 minutes made by Comm. Santorelli, seconded by Comm. Zullo. All in favor 5-0.

BILLS TO BE PAID: \$45,380.35

MOTION to pay add on bills for \$65.01 to "Pete Fizer" for fuel during the storm, \$72.78 to "Pete Fizer" for food during the storm, \$171.32 to Anthony Terebetsky for food during the storm, "Carmens Pizza" \$56.28 for food during the storm and \$925.00 to "Jessica Rizitis" for the creating the website. Comm. Nardiello stated for the record that Jessica

Rizitis is Comm. Zullo's daughter and would be voting to approve all of the add on bills, but will not be voting on the add on bill for "Jessica Rizitis".

Comm. Nardiello stated for the record that Brian Small was reimbursed \$30.00 for expenses regarding fire prevention activities.

Chief stated that he had receipts totaling \$960.46 from the storm and Live Burn Drill as well and presented them to Comm. Nardiello for approval. Comm. Nardiello stated they would approve subject to further investigation. Comm. Santorelli stated that they must have accurate receipts in order to be reimbursed by FEMA.

MOTION to pay October bills for at total of \$51,209.45 made by Comm. Huber, seconded by Comm. Santorelli. All in favor 5-0.

Comm. Zullo did not vote on add on bill for "Jessica Rizitis" for \$925.00.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance	\$ 494,398.37
Deposits	\$ 428,562.75
Interest	\$ 34.07
Payroll	\$(109,977.49)
Payroll Tax/Adjustments	\$ (1,461.19)
Disbursements for the Month	<u>\$ (45,380.35)</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 766,176.16

MOTION to accept Treasurer's Report was made by Comm. Santorelli, seconded by Comm. Galvach. All in favor 5-0.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief reported calls for the month of October a total of 95 calls.

Chief reported that the attendance for Fire Prevention Open House was not very good and that more advertising should be done in the future.

Chief reported that they attended the St. Anthony Church Community Day and Octoberfest.

Chief requested an engine for the Woodbridge Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 2 and will coordinate with Captain Zullo.

Chief reported that all eligible volunteers and career staff attended the Live Drill and that it was a good drill, with some mistakes.

Chief reported that Hurricane Sandy hit hard in Port Reading and both career and volunteer staff acted above and beyond the call of duty. Chief reported that many residents were rescued by boat. Chief stated that Firefighter Deleo was investigating a collapsed basement and the ground gave way under his feet. Firefighter Pereira acted quickly and grabbed Firefighter Deleo, preventing a possible tragedy.

Chief reported that while some suffered from different stages of hypothermia and exhaustion, they still gave aid to Woodbridge on a mutual aid call. Chief stated that he cannot be any prouder to be Chief and that this Board and town is very fortunate to have these men willing to go the extra yard.

MOTION to accept the Chief's Report made by Comm. Santorelli, seconded by Comm. Huber. All in favor 5-0.

Jim Fodor, a licensed, union roofer from Anderson Roofing with 35 years of experience, gave an analysis of the roof situation and stated that he made some proper repairs but more repairs need to be done. The Board requested that a proposal for the proposed work be submitted at the next meeting.

MOTION to pay \$250.00 to "Jim Fodor" for the repairs recently done on the roof made by Comm. Santorelli, seconded by Comm. Zullo. All in favor 5-0.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT:

Comm. Nardiello stated for the record that all defibrillators have been completed except for some batteries.

Comm. Nardiello reported that Volunteer Cory McGuinn looked into and worked on the exhaust system.

MOTION to pay \$100.00 to "Cory McGuinn" as our token of appreciation for parts and labor for working on the exhaust system made by Comm. Galvach, seconded by Comm. Santorelli. All in favor 5-0.

Comm. Nardiello requested that the ping pong table be taken off the newly re-felted pool table.

Comm. Nardiello reported that discussions with legal counsel need to take place regarding the obligation/requirements the career members have to respond to EMS/First Responder calls when either a Commissioner, First Aider or the general public calls the building in time of need.

MOTION to pay "Danny's Automotive" in full for repairs to Fire Inspectors car, minus the \$29.83 tax since we are tax exempt, made by Comm. Galvach, seconded by Comm. Santorelli. All in favor 5-0.

MOTION to accept the Captain's report made by Comm. Santorelli, seconded by Comm. Zullo. All in favor 5-0.

FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT:

Reviewed the Fire Official's report.

MOTION to accept the Fire Official's report made by Comm. Santorelli, seconded by Comm. Galvach. All in favor 5-0.

MOTION to accept the Resolution to transfer funds totaling \$39,475.00 from budget line items with excesses to budget line items with insufficient balances. All in favor 5-0.

Comm. Santorelli suggested that the all gear and hoses be inspected ASAP in order to be reimbursed by FEMA.

Roll Call Vote:

Comm. Nardiello – Yes
Comm. Huber – Yes
Comm. Santorelli – Yes
Comm. Galvach – Yes
Comm. Zullo - Yes

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Comm. Zullo reported that rooms needed to be painted from the career room up to the bathroom, the soffits around the building are starting to peel and that shingles needed to be replaced. Comm. Zullo received two estimates, one of \$2200.00 and another of \$1100, which would include the paint from Volunteer Firefighter Harry Triantafillidis who is also a contractor.

MOTION to pay "Harry Triantafillidis" in the amount of \$1100.00, with a \$500.00 deposit to paint the three rooms, repair and paint the soffits and replace the shingles that were destroyed from the storm made Comm. Zullo, seconded by Comm. Huber. All in favor 5-0.

Comm. Zullo suggested that Harry Triantafillidis take a look at the exhaust fan.

Comm. Nardiello reported that he spoke to the Captain regarding making comments in his report and suggested that the Captain speak to a Commissioner in the future instead.

NEW BUSINESS:

Comm. Zullo thanked the Chief, Career and Volunteer Staff and Comm. Galvach for their tireless efforts during the storm. Comm. Zullo stated that they kept the town together without mutual aid.

Chief reported that he has a thank you letter from the St. James Pre-School.

Comm. Zullo suggested that more spouses join the ladies auxillary to help "behind the scenes" during situations like the hurricane.

Comm. Zullo was disappointed in the response from the township regarding helping the residents who had no place else to go and was informed by a personnel staff that there was chaos at the building. The Chief responded that roads were impassable and Comm. Santorelli reported that the town was initially still in the process of opening the community center for evacuated residents as a shelter. Comm. Zullo stated that residents should come to the firehouse in these situations, but there needs to be order.

Comm. Zullo reported that the squirt did a great job for a total of 30 hours straight.

Comm. Zullo suggested Hess be presented with a plaque in appreciation for the diesel fuel donation.

MOTION to purchase a plaque for Hess made by Comm. Zullo, seconded by Comm. Santorelli. All in favor 5-0.

Comm. Zullo presented the hall rental agreement.

MOTION to table the hall rental agreement until the next meeting made by Comm. Santorelli, seconded by Comm. Galvach. All in favor 5-0.

Comm. Zullo reported that the Captain requested that Cooper Power take a look at the generator, due to the overuse during the storm and concerns over oil intake.

Comm. Huber praised the Chief and Staff on the phenomenal job they did during the storm and suggested that a boat, cots and pumps be purchased in the event there is another storm and residents need to come to the building since this is where they should be coming.

Comm. Nardiello submited the prognosis for Firefighter Fizer from when he was injured during the storm to Board Accountant Bucsanszky for his personal files.

Comm. Nardiello submitted the police report from the accident involving Volunteer Firefighter Delebro when a tire hit his vehicle during the storm. Board Accountant

Bucsanszky will submit to the insurance companies and cover the deductible. Comm. Zullo stated for the record that he saw the tire on the sidewalk.

Comm. Nardiello stated that he would contact active honorary members so that we may utilize them in the future during a storm or whenever needed.

Comm. Galvach reported that the cooperation between the career and volunteer staff was outstanding during the storm and pointed out that no lives were lost. Comm. Galvach stated the he was proud to be part of this organization.

Comm. Santorelli thanked the career and volunteer staff on the excellent job and stated that he was in contact with Assistant Chief Norelli throughout the storm since his own job kept him away from the firehouse. Comm. Santorelli reported that the staff has received praise for their response time.

Comm. Santorelli reported that Firefighters Fizer and Pereira were injured during the storm and both requested to come back to help their brother firefighters.

Comm. Santorelli stated that Firefighter Terebetsky purchased food from Wegman's on his credit card for the firehouse during the storm.

Comm. Galvach reported that the cooperation between the career and volunteer staff was outstanding during the storm and pointed out that no lives were lost. Comm. Galvach stated the he was proud to be part of this organization.

Comm. Galvach stated that the generator was a lifesaver during this storm and was thankful that it was approved ten years ago by the public.

Comm. Zullo suggested that petty cash be on hand during these situations since he paid \$208.00 on his own credit card for gas for the pumps and pickup at the service station on the turnpike. Comm. Santorelli asked to hold it for Executive Session. Board Accountant Bucsanszky stated that the Chief was given \$300.00 in petty cash after the storm.

Comm. Nardiello commended the Firefighters who handled the radio room during the storm and suggested the help of the active honorary members in the future.

TAXPAYERS COMMENTS:

Jessica Rizitis gave an overview of the website (portreadingfiredistrict.2.net) that she created and will maintain on a monthly basis. Mrs. Rizitis stated that the website is up and running, but still requires additional information from the Board and Auditor. Mrs. Rizitis will draw up a contract to maintain the website and present it to the Board for attorney review.

Firefighter Renaldi stated that while he was working the radio room, there was controlled chaos in the building until Ray Krusch came in and kept order until the residents were gradually bussed to the community center. Firefighter Renaldi reported that a lot of gear and leather boots were damaged and that safety jackets and a boat are needed. Firefighter Renaldi thanked Commissioners Galvach and Santorelli for speaking up for the staff and watching our backs.

Chief stated that we need the cooperation from the public during situations when they are evacuated to this building.

Captain Kolendriski reported that the batteries were ordered and the exhaust system was damaged during the storm.

Ex Chief Dan Nimetz thanked Comm. Zullo for his efforts in coming into the neighborhood to check in on everyone.

Mrs. Rizitis stated that she is more than happy to help with the ladies auxillary and will work with the Captain in getting more people involved.

Firefighter Terebetsky reported that there is black mold in the quarters which Comm. Zullo stated will be taken care of by the painter.

Firefighter Terebetsky reported that at one point during the storm the radio system died and there was no communication with the watch room for 20-30 minutes. Comm. Santorelli stated that all radios in the township were down. Firefighter Terebetsky suggested repairing the old system as a back up, which was temporarily used and reported that there was an issue with the system in the basement.

Firefighter Terebetsky thanked Jessica, her mom, Firefighter Fizer's wife, his wife and the next door neighbor for providing food during the storm.

Firefighter Terebetsky reported that the Avenel Fire Company washed three sets of gear for us and thanked the Board for their efforts during the storm.

MOTION to enter Executive Session at 9:25 pm.

MOTION out of Executive Session at 10:00 pm.

Comm. Santorelli inquired if there has been any correspondence from the Joint Board, which Attorney Buck responded there has not been anything to date.

MOTION to adjourn meeting at 10:03 pm pm made by Comm. Santorelli, seconded by Comm. Huber. All in favor 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,