

**Buena Borough Fire District # 2**  
**Board of Fire Commissioners**  
**Monthly Meeting**

Date: Sept 28, 2021

Meeting was called to order 7:05 PM.

Present were Anthony Abriola, Brian Ewan, Steve LaPorta, Justin Lilla, Jeff Pace, Chief Tony Habersham, Rita Shicunoff, Mark Dixon, Kevin Chapman, John Belfi, Bridget Habersham.

Minutes were read. Any corrections None.

Motion to accept the minutes by Brian, seconded by Justin.

Minotola Property Bills were read. Any corrections None.

Motion to pay bills by Jeff, seconded by Anthony.

All in favor. Roll Call: Anthony Yes, Brian Yes, Steve Yes, Justin Yes, Jeff Yes.

Landisville Property Bills were read.

Mid Atlantic Fire items were returned with a zero balance to the invoice.

Anthony made a motion to table all the Landisville Property bills.

There was not a second on the motion.

Brian made a motion to pay the 3 utility bills, seconded by Justin.

All in favor. Roll Call: Anthony Yes, Brian Yes, Steve Yes, Justin Yes, Jeff Yes.

Buena Boro MUA Water \$497.00

Verizon \$87.15

Comcast \$297.78

Other invoices still need clarification and were tabled until the commissioners can look into.

August LOSAP reviewed and discussed. Any corrections None.  
Motion to accept the LOSAP report by Justin, seconded by Jeff.  
All in favor. Roll Call: Anthony Yes, Brian Yes, Steve Yes, Justin Yes,  
Jeff Yes.

#### Correspondence:

- 1) Discrimination Complaint Rowan vs Borough of Buena.
- 2) Email from Richard Braslow on Commissioners Compensation.
- 3) Email from the Mount Laurel Fire Chief on a NJ Fire District Directory Survey. It was decided that Jeff will do the survey.
- 4) Letter to Joe D'Alessandro, Director of Public Safety from Buena Borough Fire District 2 Commissioners on the missing property from the Landisville location.

#### Discussion:

##### Chief's Report –

- 1) 114 calls for service 2021 and 8 calls for the month so far
- 2) 11-25 had 2 new batteries installed and was taken to Vineland Auto Electric to determine the cause for the dead batteries and the reason the ground wire melted.
- 3) 11-26 service will take place in October 2021
- 4) 11-20 went in and got new tires. Once everything is settled it will need a new exhaust pipe as the existing one has rotted through.
- 5) 11-27 compartment doors continue to be found to not be closed properly, it was noticed again Sunday morning and closed by Capt. Dixon

- 6) The tender task force drill will take place on Nov 7, 2021, at the Fiber Tech Building, all members are urged to attend, and it is customary for the hosting district to provide lunch for all attendees. I will be talking it over with the President of the Fire Co. to determine if we want to cook or purchase food drinks etc. for all attendees as well as having the station engine room cleaned so we can serve lunch in it.
- 7) The live burn training for the Minotola Fire Co. is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 20, 2021, at 08:00Hrs
- 8) Tentatively on January 1, 2022, the GCDC will initiate the second phase of the 800MGH radio operating system by assigning all units a “respond and operate” channel at dispatch. The only way the other stations and units will be assigned to work on the same channel is if they are on the same incident. All other stations have made the switch to 800 and are ready to proceed to faze 2. When asked if we were ready for this switch (since we have been the last and only station they were waiting for) I had to say no, but I understood when it was said that they would proceed on and hold up the rest of the stations. Unfortunately, our lack of readiness for this change over is no one else’s fault but our own.
- 9) Atlantic county Fire 2 that is in the 800 radios is the 800 version and is on the repeater. Atlantic county Fire 2 that is in the regular portables and the current mobiles is no longer on the repeater, not monitored, and no longer supported, only station 11-2 has it.
- 10) Kevin Chapman needs new gear due to a sizing issue
- 11) On drill night members of both the fire company and the commission went to Station 43-5 and used the Forcible entry training door prop, the question was asked “why don’t we have one of these” and I advised those who asked that we it was brought up in years past, but the funds were not there as they were not for other items. A quote for the door prop will be presented tonight and can be placed on the to do list when and if funds become available.
- 12) AED/CPR training is due this cycle. I will get quotes for that and the other yearly required training

## Public Portion

A motion was made by Anthony seconded by Justin to open the meeting to the public at 7:05pm. Roll Call: Anthony Yes, Jeff Yes, Brian Yes, Steve Yes, Justin Yes.

Attorney Rocco Tedesco is here to represent Arnold English. He was asking the commissioners not to void Mr. English's LOSAP funds. He stated a NJ statute that allows the commissioners to vote for compensation for themselves. He stated that there is not a difference between the LOSAP benefit and a commissioner's stipend. He stated that for 15 years as a commissioner Mr. English received LOSAP benefit reports. For 15 years the LOSAP benefit was put into the budget for Mr. English and the budget was approved by the taxpayers and the state. Mr. English was considered part of the membership not only by his commissioner duties but by helping in the fund raisers. Selling tickets and working in the kitchen. Mr. Tedesco stated that if you take back Mr. English's LOSAP benefit then the commissioners must go back to every past commissioner or commissioners' estate that collected the LOSAP benefit, and that money must be given back, or they are being selective. The DCA only gave an opinion, and it is not a law. DCA's opinion only stated that the paperwork was wrong, not that the commissioners were not allowed to collect a LOSAP benefit. The statute of limitations has long passed on this issue and what was promised cannot be undone. Mr. Tedesco ask the commissioner not to revoke Mr. English's LOSAP compensation.

Loretta Gazzara turned over mail from Verizon & DiVal Safety Equipment. She also provided April Rijo's address.

Joe D'Alessandro was at the meeting at the request of the mayor and council to follow up on the letter they received about the missing Landisville property.

Mike Lucchessi thanked Spike for his 15 years of service.

Mark Dixon informed the commissioners that he and 4 other former members of the Landisville Fire Company are pursuing a Civil Suite pertaining to their missing personal files.

Paul Lucchessi a resident of the Boro was disappointed how the passing of two firefighter (Ugo Transferri and Lou Gonzalez) was handled. He asks that they be recognized on the sign. He stated he ask how he could become a member of the Minotola Fire Co and he did not receive an answer.

Chairman LaPorta told him that he would get him an

Application. He also ask why no one for the Landisville Fire Company was present when an inventory was taken at the Arbor Ave property.

Commissioner Abriola stated that a member of the State Police was there and the commissioners did not see the need for anyone from the Landisville Fire Co to be there. Commissioner Abriola then ask why when he asks for the missing personal files no one is willing to give an answer to where they are. All statements may not have been captured in these minutes.

A motion to close the public portion of the meeting was made by Anthony and seconded by Justin at 7:25pm. Roll Call: Anthony Yes, Jeff Yes, Brian Yes, Steve Yes, Justin Yes.

### Old Business –

- 1) Steve would like the members to do “Stop the Bleed” training. John Belfi will look into.
- 2) No updates on the procurement card as of today.
- 3) Jeff reported on the portable radio issues. One microphone was bad, and he ordered a new one. Mark Dixon’s radio was reprogrammed. John Belfi’s radio needs to be reprogrammed. Anthony made a motion to hire a third party to evaluate the radio’s hardware, systems, and equipment, seconded by Justin. All in favor. Roll Call: Anthony Yes, Brian Yes, Steve Yes, Justin Yes, Jeff Yes.

- 4) Resolution 2021-015 pertaining to Arnold English's LOSAP benefits was tabled until the next meeting. Anthony suggested that a judge should give a definitive answer and the other commissioners agreed. Attorney Tedesco agreed that he would not pursue a LOSAP payment while the commissioners contact their attorney to request that he files a declaratory judgement from the court. The commissioners agreed not to touch Arnold English's funds while pursuing the declaratory judgement.

Five Minute break at 8:30pm

#### New Business --

- 1) Brian made a motion to approve the use of the fire hall on November 13<sup>th</sup> for the annual Veteran's Steak Dinner. Justin seconded the motion. All in favor.
- 2) Anthony made a motion to use the annual grant money to purchase a Fast Board. It was seconded by Justin. All in favor. Chief Habersham will get updated quotes.
- 3) Jeff got a quote of \$750 each for the 800-apparatus radio transfer. He will obtain other quotes.
- 4) Jeff is getting a quote for the kitchen stove hood.
- 5) A motion was made by Brian and seconded by Anthony to allow Battelini's to tow the mini attack to Bayshore Ford in Delaware. All in favor.
- 6) A motion was made by Brian and seconded by Anthony to put signage up at the Landisville property stating that it is no longer an active fire company. All in favor. Steve will ask Rich Braslow for the legal language that should be used on the signs.

- 7) The firefighters that have passed away will be acknowledged on the Minotola's building sign.
- 8) The disposition of Landisville's truck was discussed. Two titles were still missing . Jeff will go to motor vehicle for replacement.
- 9) A motion was made by Anthony seconded by Brian to approve Resolution 2021-016 Authorizing Litigation Relative to the Landisville Fire Company. All in favor. Roll Call: Anthony Yes, Brian Yes, Steve Yes, Justin Yes, Jeff Yes.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Anthony, seconded by Brian at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted \_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Pace, Secretary/Treasurer