



CHERRY HILL BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Cherry Hill Fire District #13
1100 Markkress Road
Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003
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Chairperson
Hugh H. "Skip" Gibson, IV

Secretary / Clerk
Robert A. Campagna

Treasurer
William P. Kelly

At Large
Kellie Montana

At Large
William T. McCargo

MINUTES FOR AGENDA MEETING **DECEMBER 1, 2016**

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975, notice of this meeting was posted on the Fire District and Township of Cherry Hill bulletin board designed for that purpose. Notice was published in the official newspapers on March 11, 2016.

CALL TO ORDER

Called to Order – 18:03 hours

ROLL CALL

CAMPAGNA	PRESENT
GIBSON	PRESENT
KELLY	PRESENT
MCCARGO	PRESENT
MONTANA	PRESENT

Also present; Fire Chief Kolbe, A/C Callan, CFO Foley and PSA Fiorentini

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- The Board discussed the officer promotion ceremony that will be held during the regular meeting.
- Fire Chief Kolbe discussed the 2017 budget and read the following statement into the minutes; *"Commissioners, at our last Workshop meeting we discussed the proposed 2017 budget."*

The Chief's Office and the CFO presented the Board with an operating budget that maintains the level of service we provide to the community in addition to maintaining our fleet replacement schedule with the replacement of 4 light duty vehicles.

We presented three (3) Options to you:

1. The standard no tax increase which requires the use of approximately \$1.7 million of reserve funds.
2. A 2% tax increase which requires the use of approximately \$1.5 million of reserve funds.
3. A 2% tax increase in addition to the utilization of \$764,282 from our cap bank. This plan would only require the use of approximately \$800 thousand of reserve funds. This would increase the tax rate by 1.2 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

In a rare and unusual year when Health Benefit costs for active employees is flat, the increase for retiree premiums is only 8.9%, and pension increases for PFRS is 2.2% and PERS is 2.5% the lowest they have been in the last couple of years, it was our recommendation that the Board choose Option 3, the 2% increase and the use of the cap bank in order to take advantage of these benefits.

We have consulted with our financial advisor PFM, our auditor Jared Corn from Bowman and Company and our General Counsel Richard Braslow, all of whom support the recommendation we have presented to you.

The Board has not raised taxes in the last 5 years and 7 of the last 8 years.

To our credit, we have conservatively managed the budget over this period with cost saving measures, and retirement of debt from previous bonds. But, at the same time the cost of providing services has also continued to increase each year.

Moody's, who rates the Fire District, recommends that government agencies utilize reserve funds during economic down turns which we did, but they also recommend the need for the government agency to raise taxes during economic up turns for budget management and reserve stabilization.

The fact that the Township experienced positive growth and development over the last year, this has increased our ratable base value by approximately \$100 million. Based on the current environment and proposed construction, it would appear that this will continue into 2018.

Sixty-Six percent (66%) of the 2% increase is absorbed with the increase in ratables; while the remaining 34% and the use of the \$764,282 cap bank will only have a very minimal financial impact to a residential property owner assessed at the Township average of \$230,000; @\$2.27 a month. This is as soft of an impact you can present to our community for the level of Fire and EMS protection that we provide.

As a resident and property owner in Cherry Hill, I own a modest 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home; this spending plan will cost me \$1.92 more a month.

We promote ourselves as being the best fire department in the region. Our recent accomplishments of being an Accredited Fire Service Agency and an ISO Class 1 Fire Department speak to our ability in meeting fire service best practices. However, these processes have also identified areas of improvement and also the maintaining of current practices; both of which will require a financial commitment from the Board in future budget years. That is why it is prudent that the Board approve the recommendation we have presented for the upcoming budget year.

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Our collective responsibility is to protect the security of this organization now and for the future. The citizens we protect would expect nothing less”.

After the statement Chairman Gibson asked the Board if they had any additional comments. Commissioner Kelly stated that he would have liked to have been involved in the discussions the Chief had with the professionals mentioned in the Chief's statement. Chief Kolbe stated that Commissioner Kelly was present for the discussion with PFM. Chairman Gibson asked the Board for a consensus on which budget option to present. It was the consensus of the Board to present the 2017 budget plan with no tax increase. A formal resolution will be presented at the regular meeting.

- PSA Fiorentini advised the Board that the resolution creating the LOSAP program was prepared with the cooperation of the Deer Park officers and that the Deer Park officers were scheduled to meet with the officers of the Woodcrest/Fire Police unit to discuss the proposal.
- PSA Fiorentini advised the Board that the petitions for the position of Fire Commissioner were available and that one petition had been requested. The completed petitions are required to be returned by January 20, 2017.
- Fire Chief Kolbe discussed the budget mailer for 2017 and the options for delivery. A meeting will be scheduled with Idea Lab to format the 2017 mailer. Commissioners Kelly and Montana will assist with the mailer.
- PSA Fiorentini advised the Board that the ballots and advertisements for the Special Meeting scheduled for December 5, 2016 have been completed.

CLOSED PUBLIC MEETING

Motion by Commissioner Montana to close Public Meeting at 18:24 hours to go into executive caucus meeting seconded by Commissioner McCargo. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #16-12-01-09	AUTHORIZING THE BOARD TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO DISCUSS CERTAIN MATTERS PERTAINING TO PERSONNEL AND/OR LITIGATION MATTERS
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Motion by Commissioner Montana and seconded by Commissioner McCargo to accept Resolution #16-12-01-09 as read. Motion carried

ROLL CALL VOTE

CAMPAGNA	YEA
GIBSON	YEA
KELLY	YEA
MCCARGO	YEA
MONTANA	YEA

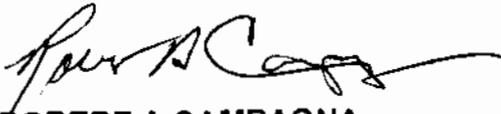
OPEN MEETING

Motion by Commissioner Montana at 18:39 hours to open to the public, seconded by Commissioner Kelly. Motion carried.

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

Motion to adjourn agenda meeting was made by Commissioner Montana and seconded by Commissioner Campagna at 18:39 hours, all voted in favor.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



**ROBERT A CAMPAGNA
CLERK, B.O.F.C. DIST. #13**