

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on March 25, 2021 virtually via Zoom at 7:00 PM.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER / STATEMENT OF NOTICE

Chairperson Malkiewicz called the meeting to order and stated that the notice of the meeting had been posted on the Hopewell Township Municipal Bulletin Board and forwarded to the Hopewell Valley News and Times of Trenton, and had been posted on the Hopewell Township Fire District Web-Site in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Malkiewicz. The Board had a moment of silence for recently deceased emergency service members.

ROLL CALL

Chairperson Malkiewicz-	Present
Vice-Chairperson Burd-	Present
Secretary Agarwal-	Present
Treasurer Tomaro-	Present
Commissioner Tackacs-	Absent

MINUTES SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

Vice Chairperson Burd moved and Treasurer Tomaro seconded to approve the regular and executive session minutes from 2/25/2021. The motion passed.
Vice Chairperson Burd moved and Secretary Agarwal seconded to approve the regular and executive session minutes from 3/11/2021. The motion passed with one abstention.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA)

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Malkiewicz asked QPA Ocicki if the Board can do anything to move forward on the contract with the Marine Unit. The Board recently obtained a quote for a marine unit per the recent bid specifications. As the contract is over the pay to play threshold, QPA Ocicki just received the completed paperwork from Ducky's and the Board has ten days to review before awarding a contract. Chairperson Malkiewicz also reported that Ducky's requested a deposit and QPA Ocicki reported that she had notified Ducky's that the Board does not pay deposits.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Tomaro read the summary of the Bills and Claims dated March 25, 2021 and was seconded by Vice-Chairperson Burd. A roll call vote was held and the following amounts were authorized:

Bill List:		\$223,401.15
Payroll Ending	March 13, 2021	\$54,039.90
Total Disbursements:		\$277,441.05

STATION REPORTS

- A. **VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT** Commissioner Tomaro reported that Communication Solutions Group had written several stories about members from Hopewell Fire Department and would be pursuing a story about Commissioner Agarwal. Those present discussed recent new volunteers. Chief Pedersen reported on a project he was interested in regarding officers handing out recruitment postcards. Secretary Agarwal began a discussion on how to reach out to different demographic groups. The Board decided to connect with parents at back to school nights.

- B. **UFCRS SPRINKLER TANK**
Chairperson Malkiewicz reported that the Hopewell Township Construction Office rejected the concept proposal from the architectural company but another proposal should be submitted soon.

- C. **SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT – HBFD & Pbfd**
No update

- D. **VEHICLE REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE**
The Board discussed debt service and would like to find out how much debt service the Board can afford to take on.

- E. **EMS BILLING AND AMBULANCE STATE LICENSING**
Vice Chairperson Burd discussed moving the ambulance crews to 7 days a week as volunteer squads are finding recruitment and retention difficult, as well as training.

- F. **UPCOMING DEVELOPMENT IN HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP**
The Board and those present discussed new developments in Hopewell Township. Chairperson Malkiewicz reported that FM Fosina had submitted requests to the developer and was currently attending a planning board meeting.

- G. **EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS**
Commissioner Tomaro received the new negotiated contract from the IAFF and will discuss in Executive Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA)

Secretary Agarwal had questions about the bills that had been approved at the meeting and will contact QPA Ocicki for details. Chief Pedersen reported on a recent meeting of the Delaware River group of Chiefs in which the Chiefs discussed creating a standard operating procedure regarding river rescues to coordinate rescues. Chief Pedersen provided information on memorial services for Chief Coordinator Newbon.

QPA Ocicki responded to the Board’s previous request to explain how the Township’s assessed valuation affects the Fire District tax rate. QPA Ocicki will send the Board a spreadsheet with potential tax rates based on several variables.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

Secretary Agarwal moved and Treasurer Tomaro moved to enter Executive Session at 7:34 PM. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairperson Burd motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Treasurer Tomaro at 9:37 PM. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Ocicki', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Ocicki
Purchasing Agent