

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF FIRE PREVENTION

November 8, 2018

A regular meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Fire Prevention was held in the Main Conference Room at the Franklin Township Municipal Building at 475 DeMott Lane, Somerset; on November 8, 2018 from 7:38 pm to 8:43 pm. Vice Chairman Darrell Myers called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and reading of the Sunshine Notice.

A moment of silence was held for all members who have passed.

ATTENDANCE

<u> </u> Shanel Robinson	<u> </u> Phil Kramer	Township Council
<u> X</u> Brian Farrar	<u> </u>	Twp. Manager/Police Dept.
<u> X</u> John Hauss	<u> </u> Andrew Berardo	Fire Prevention
<u> X</u> Rich Hibbard	<u> </u> Jim Wickman	Fire District No. 1
<u> X</u> Darrell Myers	<u> X</u> Dave Hammer	Fire District No. 2
<u> </u> Sherrod Middleton	<u> </u> Kenneth Reid	Fire District No. 3
<u> </u> Christina Klam	<u> X</u> Keith Chase	Fire District No. 4
<u> X</u> Vincent Inzano	<u> X</u> Steve Berardo	Fire Chief's Association

MINUTES – The October 11, 2018 meeting minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT – The Board reviewed the Activity, FAAR and Fire Call Response reports for October 2018. John Hauss advised that the Department is working on all the Life Hazard Use inspections for the Annual State Report.

Darrell Myers asked if John Hauss had heard back from the insurance company regarding reimbursement. John stated no.

TRUST FUND – \$8,886.32 – no activity

SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT – None

JOINT BOARD – COMMISSIONERS & FIRE CHIEFS – Reported that the banner and table cover are being worked on.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – John Hauss addressed the Board regarding Social Media. John advised that he also addressed the issue at last night’s Fire Chief’s meeting. John advised that an incident occurred in Somerset County, not in Franklin, where photos from the interior of the building were posted on a member’s social media site and the fire is now being investigated as a possible arson, which means photos of a possible crime scene were posted on social media which could cause issues with the prosecution. John advised at a fire scene that there are two types of photos and videos – those taken from the public space (example - from the street) and those taken from a location accessible to the fire department because they are at a location for an emergency (example – the inside of the house). Photos or videos taken from the public way (from the street) are not “privileged photos” because the general public could take that same photo; but any photos or videos taken inside a building or in a location not accessible by the general public, are “privileged photos” and need to be carefully

examined to ensure they do not violate a person's right to privacy or compromise an investigation. Any time the Franklin Police detectives or Somerset County Prosecutors Office is part of the fire investigation, means the fire might be a possible arson and prior to posting any photos or videos the fire department should contact Fire Prevention to review any photos to be posted to social media. Rich Hibbard stated that District 1 has a strict social media policy. Brian Farrar stated there are a number of other issues that come into play with photos and videos, including HIPPA laws and a number of sites in the Township that because of Home Land Security requirements cannot have any photos or videos taken.

Andrew Berardo advised the Board that the Department is in need of 11- SCOTT air bottles because the existing bottles are expiring and can no longer be hydro tested. Andrew advised that he got a price under State contract for 11 bottles - \$8,524.

ROUNDTABLE COMMENTARY – Dave Hammer advised the Board that District # 2 had hose testing done by an outside company and afterwards found some of the hose was delaminated and the company failed to notice and/or advise the District. Dave advised they are going to watch more closely and recommended all districts do the same.

PUBLIC SESSION – None

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 7:30 PM
Franklin Township Municipal Building
Large Conference Room

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Dupree, Office Coordinator, Fire Prevention Department