

Dan Penney, South Fire District resident and taxpayer for some nineteen years.

Good evening, commissioners, staff, firefighters and members of the public.

First, welcome new Commissioner Kleckowski. As a concerned taxpayer of the district, I look forward to your active efforts to help control questionable spending. Along these lines, I would challenge you to not accept the district stipend. I know commissioner Thazhampallath has offered to do so but was not supported by fellow commissioners during the last budget workshop. This action might seem insignificant but it represents \$9,000 per year or \$45,000 over five years and with consideration that commissioners typically serve for two terms the total is \$90,000 that is being drawn out of the district budget, thus, further negatively impacting the overtaxed residents of the South Fire District.

Under monthly expenses 7403 - Vehicle Repairs: there are reported four significant debits totaling \$5,452.13 ,July and August 2018, for which there continues to be no publicly advertised bid for such services. It seems the district could realize a significant savings if such were a reasonable business practice of the district. Also under vehicle repairs, the SFDBOFC is asked for comments this evening relative to the details of a reported no bid expense of \$3,395.12.

The recent purchase of a replacement Shed appears to be a value to the district, however, this was not a capital / CNR item that was approved by the district voters for the budget year purchased. Also, it is unclear if or how funds were possibly transferred or line item to provide for such an expense and, if acted on, who authorized such a transfer of funding? The district is asked to provide comment on such this evening.

It has been observed that some commissioner attendance, especially at monthly and related critical meetings has been, in my opinion, poor. While times are very busy for us all, it seems that if a commissioner position is accepted at the South Fire District, the district business must remain a priority , in the best interest of the taxpayers of said district. It has also been observed that some side-bar conversations have been occurring at commission meetings. In my opinion, such is disrespectful. Also noted, the district long ago adopted Roberts Rules which should be guided and enforced via the Chairman.

Respectfully,

*Dan Penney
Middletown*