

REVISION DATE 04-21-2024**January 2, 2020**

Multiple attempts to communicate with Chief Simonsick by Township Manager Danson regarding annual appointments by governing body for the fire department answered partially or not at all. The governing body noticed by the Township Manager as to liability and statutory requirements.

January 31, 2020

The governing body noticed that the fire department overspent their operating and expenditure budget by \$45,000.00, Chief Simonsick noticed accordingly and a municipal procedure was reactively implemented to prevent process from reoccurring. Council forced to approve budgetary transfer resolution to cure the deficiency.

February 10, 2020

Attempt to communicate with Chief Simonsick by Township Manager Danson to meet and reconcile indifference, (need disposition).

February 13, 2020

The governing body noticed that the fire department installed a \$8,500.00 stove in the fire station without a hood-based suppression system or smoke detector(s).

February 22, 2020

Chief Simonsick noticed by Township Manager Danson that he remains non-compliant with the submission of fire officer credentials as required by statute, final notice issued for compliance.

March 10, 2020

Chief Simonsick noticed of pending municipal ordinance revision specific to the fire department, and the commitment of her office and the governing body to operate a model department that includes the involvement of Independent Fire Company, No. 1.

March 27, 2020

Introduction of municipal ordinance pertaining to fire department management and administration submitted to the governing body and the fire department. No response as to comments from Chief Simonsick.

April 28, 2020

No response documented from the fire department pertaining to the proposed ordinance revision (March 27, 2020) despite multiple opportunities for the fire department to participate in the process.

May 5, 2020

Anonymous complaint filed with Councilman Wiest from a reported Maple Shade Firefighter alleging the following: alcohol consumption in the fire station by members and civilians, fire department members who have consumed alcohol manning fire apparatus for emergencies, the construction of a bar in the fire station with funding supplied by the fire company, the then Deputy Chief being intoxicated during fire department responses in a municipal vehicle, the lack of qualifications for active fire department personnel, and the lack of volunteer member participation, and the falsification of department records.

May 14, 2020

Fire department ordinance introduced by way of municipal ordinance 2020-04.

May 15, 2020

Formal invitation to the line officers of the Maple Shade Fire Department to attend a meeting with the governing body on May 26, 2020.

May 22, 2020

Township Manager Danson notified the governing body that the fire department did not respond to the meeting invitation to discuss the proposed fire department ordinance.

May 26, 2020

Memorandum from Township Manager Danson to memorialize an agenda for a meeting with the Maple Shade Fire Department. Agenda items included a table of compliance factors for the MSFD to include: formal notice of compliance with statutory regulations pertaining to attain and maintain Incident Management System certifications, removal of MSFD officers who are not compliance with IMS requirements, issuance of Maple Shade Township drug and alcohol municipal directive, provide the Fire Chief with a key fob to the municipal building.

May 28, 2020

Second reading of fire department ordinance introduced on May 14, 2020.

May 29, 2020

Township Manager Danson memorandum to Township Council regarding the suspension of the MSFD Deputy Fire Chief, revocation of the assigned municipal vehicle; and notice that if the MSFD fails to comply with the directives outlined in the May 26, 2020 meeting, additional administrative actions may be required to include reliance on mutual aid fire departments for assistance.

June 6, 2020

Report of the annual audit of the financial operations of the Township of Maple Shade, identifying improper spending practices, failing to encumber purchase order(s).

June 11, 2020

Township Manager Danson meet with Chief Simonsick and Mr. Jake Woehr regarding the Maple Shade Fire Department:

1. Township has no interest in creating a paid fire department.
2. There is no plan for the Township to hire a Director of Public Safety.
3. Chief Simonsick agreed that the MSFD needs to clean up operational components.
4. Chief Simonsick acknowledged his responsibility to submit a copy of MSFD SOP/SOG's.
5. Mr. Woehr acknowledged to submit a copy of Independent Fire Company, No. 1 bylaws.
6. Chief Simonsick, Mr. Woehr agreed to issue the Township drug and alcohol procedure.
7. Members of Independent Fire Company, No. 1 are representatives of the Township.
8. Chief Simonsick agreed to address the behaviors leading to the unsafe operation of MSFD municipal apparatus and vehicles.
9. The importance of mentoring and developing younger members of the MSFD.

June 12, 2020

Township Manager Danson memorandum to Township Council memorializing the content of the June 11, 2020 meeting with Chief Simonsick and Mr. Jake Woehr, and Chief Simonsick's acknowledgment that many of the issues facing the MSFD have been under his command of the MSFD.

June 24, 2020

Township Manager Danson email to Chief Simonsick re: failure to comply with the agenda items identified during the June 11, 2020 meeting.

June 29, 2020

Email complaint of racial bias on social media from a member of the Maple Shade Fire Department, [REDACTED] submitted with exhibits.

July 1, 2020

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick acknowledging Chief Simonsick's report (unavailable) as to his communication with [REDACTED] regarding the racial bias complaint.

July 10, 2020

Memorandum from Township Manager Danson to Township Council re: Independent Fire Company, No. 1 waiver of bingo license fees.

August 3, 2020

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick, renewed request to have Independent Fire Company bylaws submitted, unanswered.

August 26, 2020

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick, renewed request to have Independent Fire Company bylaws submitted, unanswered.

August 28, 2020

Email from Township Manager Danson to all municipal department managers, including Chief Simonsick, requesting an updated inventory of municipal vehicles and fixed assets, unanswered.

September 2, 2020

Email from/to Chief Simonsick from Township Manager Danson regarding an unreported MSFD vehicle accident with damage/reportable loss.

September 8, 2020

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick regarding a second request for an incident report regarding the MSFD vehicle accident, unanswered.

September 10, 2020

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick regarding additional information needed for MSFD vehicle accident claim, unanswered.

September 29, 2020

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick regarding the status of the MSFD apparatus damaged in the accident (09-02-2020), unanswered.

October 9, 2020

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick denying a \$12,000.00 repair for the damaged MSFD apparatus (09-02-2020), and improper reporting of the accident by Chief Simonsick, unanswered.

October 16, 2020

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick regarding MSFD members complying with New Jersey blue warning light regulations, unanswered.

November 4, 2020

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick regarding submitted Independent Fire Company bylaws to the municipality, Incident Management System training compliance, minimum qualifications for fire officers, Fire Marshal training requirements, working collaboratively with Independent Fire Company, No. 1, and fire officer expectations for 2021.

November 19, 2020

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick regarding improper spending practices, failing to encumber purchase order(s).

December 4, 2020

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick regarding toll violations for a MSFD municipal vehicle on 11-21-2020.

December 8, 2020

Email complaint filed with Township Manager Danson regarding improper behavior and unsafe practices in the MSFD and by Chief Simonsick.

December 16, 2020

Email from Township Manager Danson to Mr. Nick Diniglio and Chief Simonsick regarding improper spending practices, failing to encumber purchase order(s).

December 21, 2020

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick regarding additional improper spending practices, failing to encumber purchase order(s).

December 28, 2020

Email from Township Manager Danson to Mr. Nick Diniglio and Chief Simonsick regarding the denial of \$13,000.00 in unplanned spending, failing to encumber purchase order(s), and supplying Chief Simonsick with municipal procedures for spending.

December 28, 2020

Anonymous complaint filed with Maple Shade Township Council regarding the Maple Shade Fire Department, and Chief Simonsick:

1. Financial impropriety by the Independent Fire Company, violating 501c3 regulations,
2. Racial bias by fire department officers and Chief Simonsick against an African American member of the fire department (1).
3. Racial bias by fire department officers and Chief Simonsick against an African American member of the fire department (2).

December 28, 2020 (Continued)

4. Gender bias by fire department officers and Chief Simonsick against an African American member of the fire department (3).
5. Formation of an unauthorized "accident review board" by Chief Simonsick and impartial and arbitrary MSFD accident investigations at the discretion of Chief Simonsick.
6. Use of the assigned municipal vehicle assigned to Chief Simonsick for his personal business.
7. Potential use of public funds on discretionary spending by Chief Simonsick at the New Jersey Fireman's Association Convention.

February 5, 2021

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick regarding an unaddressed toll violation previously noticed and acknowledged by Chief Simonsick.

February 9, 2021

Email from Mrs. Debra Simonsick to Township Manager Danson regarding a reported on-duty shoulder injury to [REDACTED]

February 16, 2021

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick regarding unplanned \$7,000.00 in spending on warning lights for an MSFD apparatus.

February 21, 2021

Complaint filed with Maple Shade Township Council regarding improper behavior by MSFD personnel at the fire station, images posted on social media.

February 25, 2021

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick regarding the failure to submit a year-end report for 2020.

February 26, 2021

Email from Township Manager Danson to leadership of the MSFD and Independent Fire Company, No. 1 noticing the scheduling of a mandatory meeting to address complaints and issues involving MSFD personnel.

March 2, 2021

Meeting conducted with Mayor Wiest, Township Manager Danson, Independent Fire Company, No. 1 President Vairo, Treasurer Reiss, and Chief Simonsick re:

1. Consumption of alcohol in MSFD fire station,
2. MSFD lack of proper protocols,
3. Independent Fire Company, No. 1 outdated bylaws,
4. Complaints submitted to the Township,
5. MSFD record keeping and training,
6. MSFD members naked, engaged in improper behavior on the roof of the MSFD fire station on February 20, 2021,
7. A lack of leadership and oversight in the MSFD,
8. Chief Simonsick failing in his duties as the Chief of the MSFD.

March 16, 2021

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick, Independent Fire Company, No. 1 leadership regarding [REDACTED] not complying with prescribed treatment for an on-duty injury.

March 17, 2021

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick regarding July 4th fireworks detail planning, unanswered.

March 22, 2021

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick regarding a second on-duty injury and again unreported incident involving [REDACTED] by Chief Simonsick.

March 25, 2021

Closed session minutes of Maple Shade Township Council re: multiple failed attempts to communicate and work with the MSFD, Chief Simonsick to improve fire department operations.

March 29, 2021

Email from Township Manager Danson to MSFD Captain Alec Fleming requesting an updated MSFD personnel roster, unanswered.

March 30, 2021

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick regarding four reporting requirements to be submitted by Chief Simonsick by 04-05-2021, unanswered.

March 30, 2021

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick regarding a denial for further treatment for [REDACTED] on-duty injury due to non-compliant reporting and operating without medical clearance.

April 13, 2021

Email from Township Manager Danson to Mr. Nick Diniglio and Chief Simonsick regarding improper spending practices, failing to encumber purchase order(s).

May 10, 2021

Maple Shade Township executed Resolution 2021-R-71 suspending the operations of the Independent Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 (hereinafter MSFD) for ninety (90) days. Detailed within the resolution are a multitude of leadership failures and lack of confidence in the Chief of the MSFD, Andrew Simonsick Sr.

May 11, 2021

Letter from Mrs. Debra Simonsick to Township Manager Susan Danson, representing Independent Fire Company, No. 1.

May 17, 2021

Email from Township Manager Danson to Independent Fire Company, No. 1 President Vairo, Chief Simonsick regarding meeting with representatives of the Rodgers Group.

June 15, 2021

Notification of a complaint and investigation by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety regarding Local Enforcing Agency improprieties by the MSFD Fire Official, specific to the Woods Edge apartment complex on Lenola Road.

June 17, 2021

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick requesting a meeting to review, discuss and plan to correct the administration and operations of the Maple Shade Fire Department. Email went unanswered by Simonsick until July 8, 2021, agreeing to meet on July 12, 2021.

June 23, 2021

Email from Rodgers Group to Chief Simonsick regarding compliance document submissions to the consulting firm, unanswered.

July 10, 2021

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick postponing the scheduled meeting due to a previous commitment and addressing the participants in the meeting as being counterproductive to the purpose.

July 26, 2021

Email from Chief Simonsick to Township Manager Danson requesting access to the MSFD fire station to access information requested from the "Consultant." Email answered by Township Manager Danson on June 27, 2021 advising access until 7:30 pm would be granted. Chief Simonsick responded, advising he was not available until after that time, and did not know how long access was needed.

July 29, 2021

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick advising that access to the MSFD fire station is no longer needed due to the receipt of the Rodgers Group report to the Township of Maple Shade.

August 2, 2021

Email from Township Manager Danson to Chief Simonsick, Mr. Vince Vairo inviting officers and members of the Maple Shade Fire Department to attend a special meeting of the Maple Shade Township Council to hear a presentation on the report prepared by the Rodgers Group regarding the Maple Shade Fire Department.

August 2, 2021

Email from Mr. Nick Diniglio to and from Township Manager Danson regarding improper spending practices, failing to encumber purchase order(s).

August 4, 2021

A third-party consulting firm, The Rodgers Group was retained by Maple Shade Township to assess the fire department and issued a report this date outlining the multitude of deficiencies encountered with the MSFD as well as many recommendations. Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. prohibited any MSFD personnel to participate, answer any questions nor provide any information to the Rodgers Group during the assessment of the MSFD.

August 11, 2021

MSFD returned to service under revised mutual aid plans provided at their suspension by Burlington County Chief Fire Coordinator Timothy Pearson, in accordance with the State of New Jersey Emergency Deployment Act.

August 12, 2021

Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. makes verbal threats to Mount Laurel Fire Chief Christopher Burnett pertaining to fire department mutual aid to Maple Shade by the Mount Laurel Fire Department. Chief Burnett subsequently filed an official complaint with Maple Shade Township.

August 30, 2021

Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. makes verbal threats to Burlington County Fire Coordinator Timothy Pearson pertaining to Maple Shade Fire Department mutual aid plans. Fire Coordinator Pearson subsequently filed a complaint with Maple Shade Township and the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office.

September 4, 2021

Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. verbally threatened Burlington Fire Coordinator Tim Pearson with serious bodily harm for not changing "his" response "grids," reverting to the response plan in effect prior to the suspension of the Independent Fire Company, in a recorded conversation with Burlington County Communications.

August 24, 2021

Mount Laurel Fire Department responded to five (5) fire calls in Maple Shade Township with zero (0) response from the MSFD. Mount Laurel Fire Department subsequently requests immediate removal from service calls for MSFD mutual aid assistance.

August 26, 2022

A verbal complaint reported by Burlington County Fire Coordinator Tim Pearson to the NJ Division of Fire Safety, from the contiguous community fire departments responding into Maple Shade for daily routine 'service' calls is received, referred to DFS Bureau of Fire Department Services, who initiated an investigation of the complaint. The investigation conducted by the Division of Fire Safety (hereinafter DFS) training certifications roster of Independent Fire Co 1 under Fire Department Identification Number 0310 (Maple Shade Township).

August 29, 2022

Cinnaminson, Mount Laurel, Cherry Hill and Pennsauken Fire Departments file a mutual-aid abuse complaint with the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety due to Maple Shade Fire Department non-responses and the burden placed on the contiguous community fire departments.

August 29, 2022

Telephone meeting/interview conducted with Maple Shade Township Manager Susan Danson and Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. regarding the complaint issues.

September 13, 2022

Initial scheduled DFS meeting/interview into the complaint conducted at Maple Shade Municipal Building. Participating were: DFS Principal Planner Tim Weiss, DFS Senior Planner Don Nelsen, Maple Shade Township Manager Susan Danson, Maple Shade Councilman Nelson Weist and Maple Shade Councilman Steve Schmidt, Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr., Deputy Chief Alec Fleming, and Battalion Chief Andrew Simonsick, Jr.

September 14, 2022

MSFD creates a 2022 "MSFD Appointments" roster issued to the governing body at the February 16, 2023 special closed session of the Mayor and Council regarding their proposed stipend program. This noted roster contains twenty-eight (28) firefighters and three (3) Fire Police personnel.

October 19, 2022

MSFD Battalion Chief Andrew Simonsick, Jr. willfully disconnect critical components of an automatic fire alarm system during a MSFD response to the Hometown Suites by Red Roof Inn located at 2868 Route 73 North. The hotel facility was occupied by civilians, who were directly placed into danger, without an active fire protection system required by law, and in doing so, caused unnecessary damage to privately owned property and violating his sworn responsibilities as a public official.

October 21, 2022

A complaint regarding the October 19, 2022 fire alarm incident at 2868 Route 73 North is received by the NJ Division of Fire Safety Code Enforcement Bureau.

October 25, 2022

DFS Codes Enforcement Bureau Chief Lou Kilmer notices Maple Shade Township Manager of the fire alarm incident and requests DFS OFDP to investigate.

October 26, 2022

DFS OFDP assigned to the acting DFS Delaware Rive Region coordinator. Telephonic interview of Maple Shade Township Manager Susan Danson, to include a series of contact attempts to reach Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. regarding the incident and investigation.

November 4, 2022

MSFD CAD report on the October 19, 2022 fire alarm incident received from Burlington County Communications following intergovernmental records request being converted to an OPRA request.

November 17, 2022

DFS investigation interview at the Maple Shade Fire Department. Participating were: (was held) with DFS Principal Planner, DFS Senior Planner, Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr., Deputy Chief Alec Fleming, and Battalion Chief Andrew Simonsick, Jr. regarding the fire alarm incident and follow up on the initial complaint meeting. Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. submitted the October 19, 2022 MSFD run report and also submits a 'blank' run report as his roster from our initial meeting request containing forty-two (42) active MSFD personnel. MSFD leadership were provided contact information for reporting fires and codes problems to the DFS as the Maple Shade Fire Department local enforcing agency (LEA) was suspended/disbanded by order of the DFS.

November 18, 2022

DFS Delaware Region Coordinator notices Burlington County Communications Chief Carroll to activate Lenola Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 of Moorestown Fire District 2 into a Monday through Friday 6:00am to 6:00pm dual response plan to all MSFD calls as soon as possible based on the MSFD Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. assuring the DFS he agrees with said response plan.

November 20, 2022

DFS Delaware Region Coordinator confers with Lenola VFC#1 Chief Robert Grant telephonically and confirmed his acceptance of the response plan, along with Burlington County Fire Coordinator Tim Pearson.

November 21, 2022

DFS investigation into the Hometown Suites by Red Roof Inn located at 2868 Route 73 North fire alarm system issued.

December 5, 2022

The DFS training certification roster for MSFD is issued to the Maple Shade Fire Department.

December 17, 2022

Mount Laurel Deputy Fire Chief Todd Evans provides documentation of the August 24, 2022 incident(s) noted previously and submits statement to DFS pertaining to an incident which he (Evans) ordered Mount Laurel FD resources to continue in to a reported building fire in Maple Shade Township during which time, Battalion Chief Andrew Simonsick, Jr. attempted to cancel the MLFD first arriving apparatus with no response from the MSFD.

December 26, 2022 through December 30, 2022

DFS meetings with Maple Shade contiguous community Fire Chiefs Palumbo of Pennsauken, Callan of Cherry Hill, Burnett of Mount Laurel, Kramer of Cinnaminson, and Grant of Lenola/Moorestown with regard to NFPA 1720 demand zone staffing and response, mutual aid 'grids' response plans, and Deployment Act issues.

January 5, 2023

DFS complaint findings/report issued to Maple Shade Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. and Maple Shade Township Manager Danson.

January 12, 2023

DFS Delaware Region Coordinator attends a special closed session of the Maple Shade Township Mayor and Council to review investigation report.

February 1, 2023

DFS Delaware Region Coordinator meeting with Burlington County Chief Fire Coordinator and Camden County Chief Fire Coordinator Dan Dizenzo to plan and develop Maple Shade Fire Department mutual/automatic aid response plan.

February 2, 2023

MSFD mutual/automatic aid response plan (acknowledged by Chief Simonsick as 'grids') submitted to Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. and Burlington County Communications for immediate implementation.

February 11, 2023 (need address)

A residential structure fire occurs at XXXX XXXX XXXX requiring mutual/automatic aid into Maple Shade Township. In violation of the established response plan issued to the MSFD established for this purpose. Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. willfully violates the response schedule to special call volunteer fire companies not contiguous to Maple Shade Township, and planned several alarms later in the response plan, delaying the response of planned fire resources to the working fire incident.

February 14, 2023

DFS issues a cease-and-desist order to MSFD Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. directing him to comply with and follow the New Jersey Emergency Deployment Act and the established mutual/automatic aid response plan with compliant practices. This order was further issued to Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. by the DFS Delaware Region Coordinator.

February 15, 2023

Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. submits a written rebuttal to the findings of the DFS investigation one day prior to a scheduled closed session meeting with the DFS, MSFD and governing body. Multiple fraudulent claims and fabricated statements submitted by Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. were noted in a refutation letter to Maple Shade Township Manager, along with the governing body.

February 16, 2023

A special closed session of the Maple Shade Township Mayor and Council with Independent Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 leadership and Division of Fire Safety personnel is held. Chief Simonsick presents a volunteer stipend plan with the 14 September 2022 listing of MSFD Appointments containing 28 firefighting personnel. Later Deputy Mayor Steve Schmidt proposed a hypothetical question that if every active member of the fire company is available tonight and his house catches on fire – how many of the active firefighters would actually show up? Chief Simonsick answered 10-15 active members. Significant back and forth took place with Deputy Mayor Schmidt questioning 10-15 members versus the 26 active members in the proposed stipend plan versus the 42 active member list provided to the Division versus the NFPA 1720 Demand Zone requirements of 15 firefighters on scene within 9 minutes 90% of the time, Chief Simonsick was unable to provide any answers. Post meeting Chief Simonsick handed me 37 file folders for each one of his active members containing some certificate copies.

February 17, 2023

A cursory review of the files by DFS indicated 3 Firefighter 1, 15 HazMat Awareness and Operations, and 6 On Scene Incident Commander certifications still deficient as well as 9 active members still needing ICS-200, 7 needing IS-700, 17 needing IS-800, and 1 needing Fire Police training.

February 24, 2023

A complete detailed outstanding deficiencies letter was sent to Chief Simonsick and copied to Township Manager Danson.

February 27, 2023

Another updated DFS training certifications roster was obtained to further cross reference with submissions.

April 5, 2023

Contact was attempted with Chief Simonsick, the usual telephone tag routine ensued. I (DFS) left voice mail stating I desired to close the investigation upon deficiencies being cured and would be in the area next week to swing by and pickup hard copies if he so desired. No reply was ever received.

April 17, 2023

HazMat On Scene Incident Commander certifications of Chief Officers received via email from Deputy Chief Fleming.

April 28, 2023

Contact was again attempted via email and phone with Chief Simonsick, again stating the desire to close out the investigation once the outstanding deficiencies were cured. Again, I stated in voice mail I would be in the area next week and could drop by to pick up hard copies should he so desire. No reply was ever received. Senior Planner Chris Barrella was present for the voice mails and was blind copied on the emails.

May 1, 2023

Meeting with Maple Shade Township Manager Danson to introduce Delaware River Region Fire Coordinator Barrella and discuss prospective changes to the MSFD operations and administration.

May 7, 2023

Fox Meadows Apartment Complex fire resulting in two juveniles dying and two adults hospitalized in critical condition. Numerous problems observed by me (DFS) at the Command Post regarding Chief Simonsick's command and control at scene as well as strategy and tactics to mitigate the incident. Lenola Chief Grant and Mount Laurel Battalion Chief Santone ran the Command Post for the majority of the incident due to Chief Simonsick not being present.

May 8, 2023

I emailed and left voice mail for Chief Simonsick and stated enough was enough and he had until the close of business on Monday 22 May 2023 (two weeks from today) to provide certificates and certifications copies by email to me or to call and arrange pickup of same otherwise he would be in default. Senior Planner Barrella was present for the voice mail message and blind copied on the email.

May 8, 2023

Met with Lenola Fire Chief Robert Grant and Moorestown Fire Commissioner Steven Knobbs on a pre-scheduled meeting regarding the Maple Shade mutual aid run card problems and prospective mitigation. Detailed conversation on the previous night's incident was discussed. Senior Planner Barrella accompanied me in the meeting.

May 11, 2023

Met with Battalion Chief Santone, Deputy Chief Fox, and Chief Burnett of the Mount Laurel Fire Department to discuss the incident of Sunday May 7, 2023. Senior Planner Barrella accompanied me.

May 14, 2023

Sterling Manor Nursing Home fire with civilian burn injury.

May 22, 2023

The close of business deadline came and went with zero communication from any officer in the MSFD with regard to clearing up outstanding deficiencies and abatement of same.

May 23, 2023

DFS Met with Deputy Chief Fox and Chief Burnett of the Mount Laurel Fire Department to discuss the incident of Sunday 7 May 2023. They provided us audio and visual footage from their vehicle cameras on scene to confirm our observations. Senior Planner Barrella accompanied me.

May 24, 2023

DFS Met with Chief Hutton of the Pennsauken Fire Department, then Chief Kramer of the Cinnaminson Fire Department, then Chief Houlihan of the Cherry Hill Fire Department regarding historic mutual aid responses into Maple Shade in general and the May 7, 2023 fire in particular. All discussions further solidified our contentions based upon my observations and the collective opinions of the Fire Chiefs surrounding Maple Shade.

May 24, 2023

Bureau of Codes Enforcement Chief Lou Kilmer filed a complaint that the civilian burn injury at the 14 May 2023 Sterling Manor Nursing Home fire is unreported. NFIRS technician Vince Campagna followed up with Chief Simonsick and apparently took a verbal report to submit for the record.

May 25, 2023

Reports and incidents compiled for this chronological events timeline and to be referenced in a request for revocation of certifications of Maple Shade Fire Chief Andrew Simonsick.

June 13, 2023

Complaint filed with New Jersey Superior Court on behalf of the Independent Fire Company, No. 1 by Ellen McDowell, Esq. citing allegations of authority overreach by the municipality, and non-compliant hiring practices by the municipality.

June 28, 2023

New Jersey Division of Fire Safety issued a fully enforceable order revoking the fire service training credentials issued to Andrew Simonsick, Sr. due to criteria and violations documented during the course of formal investigations involving the Maple Shade Fire Department by the Office of Fire Department Preparedness.

Administrative suspension issued to Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. by Maple Shade Township following the revocation of fire service credentials by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety.

July 5, 2023

New Jersey Division of Fire Safety refers complaint involving the actions of Battalion Chief Andrew Simonsick, Jr. on October 19, 2022 to the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office for evaluation of criminal charges.

July 6, 2023

Initial meeting with Maple Shade Fire Department leadership, Deputy Chief Alec Fleming and Battalion Chief Andrew Simonsick, Jr. In attendance were Township Manager Susan Danson, General Counsel Eileen Fahey, NJ Division of Fire Safety Captain Donald Nelsen, NJ Division of Fire Safety Captain Chris Barrella, Independent Fire Company, No. 1 attorney Ellen McDowell, and Fire Department Administrator Joe Palmbo.

July 21, 2023

Deputy Chief Alec Fleming filed a two-part complaint with the Director of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety following a previously filed OPRA request for the personnel rosters, and training records for the Mount Laurel Fire Department and the Cinnaminson Fire Department. The complaint in summary contained the following:

1. Citing that the Division of Fire Safety was impartially enforcing training requirements on the Maple Shade Fire Department as compared to the Mount Laurel and Cinnaminson Fire Departments, and

July 21, 2023 (continued)

listed specific personnel from both departments that Fleming contended were not qualified to serve as fire officers,

2. Requested that two staff members from the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety be omitted from the complaint investigation, citing that neither staff member can be impartial and fair as they are both responsible for the on-going investigations regarding the Maple Shade Fire Department.

July 25, 2023

Appeal filed on behalf of Andrew Simonsick, Sr. by Ellen McDowell, Esq. to the NJ DCA pertaining to the revocation of fire service credentials.

July 26, 2023

Mandatory pre-hearing conference with parties scheduled as a result of the complaint filed by the Independent Fire Company, No. 1 (re: June 13, 2023).

July 28, 2023

New Jersey Division of Fire Safety issues response and closes the complaints as unfounded, filed by Deputy Chief Alec Fleming (re: July 25, 2023).

August 1, 2023

Burlington County Prosecutor's Office declines criminal action against Battalion Chief Andrew Simonsick, Jr. for his actions on October 19, 2022 and refers the matter to Maple Shade Township for an administrative investigation.

August 14, 2023

Andrew Simonsick, Sr. reportedly verbally criticized Mount Laurel Fire Department Battalion Chief Santone and Cinnaminson Fire Department Captain Clancy at a Maple Shade structure fire response at 422 Alexander Avenue.

August 22, 2023

McDowell (representing fire company) cancelled the agreed to and scheduled court ordered settlement conference between parties, citing a schedule conflict with the Maple Shade Planning Board meeting.

August 24, 2023

Maple Shade Township Council votes to adopt the Maple Shade Fire Department establishment ordinance, and the title change for the position of Fire Department Administrator.

August 26, 2023

McDowell (representing fire company) files an amended complaint with Superior Court citing revised objections to the fire department establishment ordinance and hiring practices by Maple Shade Township for the position of Fire Department Administrator.

August 27, 2023

Following a notice from the NJ DFS, Palumbo issued a directive to Deputy Chief Alec Fleming to reinforce the previously issued and explained process of the NJ DFS holding the Maple Shade Township LEA and the requisite notification process. Fleming's response included a near insubordinate response which was immediately addressed.

September 6, 2023

Andrew Simonsick, Sr. and Andrew Simonsick, Jr. reportedly blocked Cinnaminson Fire Department apparatus and personnel from leaving the Fox Meadow complex, with a MSFD apparatus, and verbally criticized Cinnaminson Fire Department Captain Clancy and Firefighter Tull at a Maple Shade fire department response at 100 Fox Meadow Drive.

September 7, 2023

Mr. Jesse Herman (son-in-law of Andrew Simonsick, Sr.) presented information to the Maple Shade Municipal Township Administration regarding a reported physical assault against his wife, Mrs. Danielle Herman, who is the daughter of Andrew Simonsick, Sr. in March of 2021, allegedly committed by Andrew Simonsick, Sr.

September 7, 2023

Palumbo meets with Deputy Chief Alec Fleming and Battalion Chief Andrew Simonsick, Jr. to discuss the August 27, 2023 communication, review administrative and operational priorities for the department, and discussed the caustic nature of the Independent Volunteer Fire Company's relationship with surrounding fire departments, Maple Shade Township Council and administration. Note: Counsel for the fire company nor Andrew Simonsick, Sr. were present.

Note: This meeting was eighty-four days since the initial attempts to schedule a meeting with Maple Shade Fire Department leadership.

Note: Awareness of the September 6, 2023 incident with Cinnaminson Fire Department personnel was not completed at the time of this meeting.

September 8, 2023

Mr. Jesse Herman (son-in-law of Andrew Simonsick, Sr.) presented information at the Pennsauken Fire Department (seeking to meet with Palumbo as it was the location of his former employer) regarding a reported physical assault against his wife, Mrs. Danielle Herman, who is the daughter of Andrew Simonsick, Sr. in March of 2021., allegedly committed by Andrew Simonsick, Sr.

September 11, 2023

Mr. Jesse Herman (son-in-law of Andrew Simonsick, Sr.) communicated information to the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety regarding a reported physical assault against his wife, Mrs. Danielle Herman, who is the daughter of Andrew Simonsick, Sr. in March of 2021, allegedly committed by Andrew Simonsick, Sr.

September 12, 2023

Chief Grant, representing the Lenola Fire Company, formally requested to be removed from an automatic mutual aid assignment that the Lenola Fire Company has been committed to Monday through Friday 0600-1800 hours, since August of 2021. Chief Grant cited more Maple Shade responses by Lenola than they handle annually in their own jurisdiction, and the demand for responses into Maple Shade compromising the work regimen of Lenola personnel.

September 13, 2023

Mr. Jesse Herman (son-in-law of Andrew Simonsick, Sr.) communicated information to Maple Shade Deputy Mayor Steve Schmidt regarding a reported physical assault against his wife, Mrs. Danielle Herman, who is the daughter of Andrew Simonsick, Sr. in March of 2021, allegedly committed by Andrew Simonsick, Sr.

September 19, 2023

Second scheduled phone conference with Superior Court and counsel representing the township and the fire company. The court remanded the parties to another settlement conference as there is no resolution.

September 19, 2023

Mount Laurel Fire Department Chief Burnett and Cinnaminson Fire Department Chief Kramer formally decline to reduce the reported interactions and verbal abuse against their personnel, committed by Andrew Simonsick, Sr. on August 14, 2023 and September 6, 2023, and Andrew Simonsick, Jr. on September 6, 2023 citing a fear for the safety of their personnel due to a history of threats and intimidation by Simonsick, Sr.

September 20, 2023

Summary of infractions, reported infractions, potential compromise of mutual aid fire department assistance, defiance of the administrative suspension and continued representation as the Fire Chief memorandum filed by Palumbo regarding Andrew Simonsick, Sr. with Administration and General Counsel.

September 21, 2023

Andrew Simonsick, Sr. issued a termination of appointment order by Township Manager Danson, a permanent removal from representation as a member of the Maple Shade Fire Department/public official.

September 22, 2023

McDowell (representing Andrew Simonsick, Sr.) communicates with Maple Shade Labor Counsel with demands for information pertaining to termination order issued to Simonsick, Sr. and noting her client's intention to appeal the termination order.

September 24, 2023

A formal request for additional automatic aid assistance submitted to Mount Laurel Fire Department Chief Burnett and to Cinnaminson Fire Department Chief Kramer to divide the Maple Shade Township jurisdiction and share the automatic aid request currently being held by the Lenola Fire Company to provide the requested relief by November 1, 2023.

September 25, 2023

Andrew Simonsick, Sr. in defiance of the termination order issued on September 21, 2023 continued to respond to and act in the capacity of a public official as documented on MSFD incident located at Kings Highway and Route 73.

September 25, 2023

Directive issued to Deputy Chief Alec Fleming to enforce the termination order issued to Simonsick, Sr.

Note: Deputy Chief Fleming claimed to have no knowledge of the termination order.

September 27, 2023

The Mount Laurel Fire Department and the Cinnaminson Fire Department decline to accept the request to provide automatic aid to Maple Shade Township, to replace the role held by the Lenola Fire Company, by the requested relief date of November 1, 2023. Both the Mount Laurel Fire Department and the Cinnaminson Fire Department remain committed to Maple Shade Township for structure fire responses and high hazard alarms, despite their denial to provide this assistance for service related/non-emergencies.

September 28, 2023

Mrs. Danielle Herman (daughter of Andrew Simonsick, Sr.) presented information to the Maple Shade Township Council during the public comment portion of a public meeting, regarding a reported physical assault, allegedly committed by Andrew Simonsick, Sr. in March of 2021.

October 5, 2023

A formal request to Cherry Hill Fire Department Chief Houlihan to provide automatic aid to Maple Shade Township, to replace the role held by the Lenola Fire Company, by the requested relief date of November 1, 2023, was declined, citing the potential demand on CHFD resources. The Cherry Hill Fire Department remains committed to Maple Shade Township for structure fire responses and high hazard alarms, despite their denial to provide this assistance for service related/non-emergencies.

October 5, 2023

Scheduled meeting with NJ DFS Captain Barrella, Burlington County Fire Coordinator Pearson, MSFD Deputy Chief Alec Fleming and Battalion Chief Andrew Simonsick, Jr. cancelled due to the response plan submissions (alterations) proposed by Deputy Chief Fleming reversing the ordered response plans activated by the NJ DFS by administrative order, and dialogue with Deputy Chief Fleming that included continued allegations against contiguous fire departments. Deputy Chief Fleming was ordered to submit specific information to corroborate his claims and to defend his positions on the response plan changes.

October 19, 2023

Deputy Mayor Schmidt, Councilwoman Volpe, Township Manager Danson, General Counsel Eileen Fahey, Fire Department Administrator Joe Palumbo, IFC Counsel Ellen McDowell, Deputy Chief Alec Fleming and Battalion Chief Andrew Simonsick, Jr. attended a court ordered settlement conference. The fire company's position to settle the claims made against the township was to revert full control of the fire department operation from the purview of the township and to modify the fire department establishment ordinance to be controlled fully by the fire company, these requests were declined. Upon the conclusion of a respectful meeting, Andrew Simonsick, Jr. disparaged Deputy Mayor Schmidt and Township Manager Danson in the presence of the individuals in attendance.

October 24, 2023

OPRA requests submitted to the Township of Maple Shade pertaining to the Fox Meadow complex fire on May 7, 2023.

November 2, 2023

Meeting conducted at Moorestown Fire District, No. 2 regarding the requested relief from automatic aid into Maple Shade Township, an extension was requested by Maple Shade Township to continue said automatic aid until at least December 1, 2023.

November 3, 2023

Complaint filed in Superior Court that included an order to show cause and seeking injunctive relief to reinstate Andrew Simonsick, Sr.

November 9, 2023

Ordinance 2023-23 introduced by Maple Shade Township Council with a 5-0 vote to decertify the Independent Fire Company as an organization comprising the Maple Shade Fire Department. Public hearing to adopt the ordinance was scheduled for December 14, 2023.

November 10, 2023

Target notice issued to Deputy Chief Alec Fleming pertaining to a conduct procedure violation for the willfully filed maliciously false complaint against the Cinnaminson Fire Department and the Mount Laurel Fire Department.

November 10, 2023

Target notice issued to Battalion Chief Andrew Simonsick, Jr. pertaining to a conduct procedure violation for the termination of an automatic fire alarm system at an occupied motel facility in Maple Shade Township on October 19, 2022.

November 15, 2023

Working residential house fire at 48 South Terrace in Maple Shade Township with no documented response from Maple Shade Fire Department suppression or aerial apparatus and personnel.

November 16, 2023

Civil action summons served upon the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs-Division of Fire Safety, the Township of Maple Shade, Donald Nelsen, Susan Danson, Richard Mikutsky, Bruce Tynan, and Danielle Roselli by Maple Shade Independent Fire Company, No. 1, Andrew Simonsick, Tuckerton Fire Company No. 1, and Dale W. Eggert.

November 22, 2023

OPRA requests submitted to the Cinnaminson Fire Department, Mount Laurel Fire Department, and Moorestown Fire District, No. 2 requesting incident response data for mutual aid provided to Maple Shade Township for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

November 22, 2023

Information request submitted to Burlington County Communications for Maple Shade Township incident response data for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

November 27, 2023

Moorestown Fire District, No. 2 submits terminal notice to Maple Shade Township ceasing automatic aid to Maple Shade Township for the Monday through Friday 0600-1800 time period that has been active since 2021, following a dispatched incident in Maple Shade Township that resulted in a no response from the MSFD and the incident mitigated by Moorestown Fire District, No. 2 while MSFD personnel were documented as available inside the Moorestown Mall and failing to respond.

November 30, 2023

Meeting conducted at Maple Shade municipal building with representatives from the Mount Laurel Fire Department, Cinnaminson Fire Department, Cherry Hill Fire Department, Pennsauken Fire Department, Moorestown Fire District, No. 2, Burlington County Fire Coordinator, State of New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, Township Manager Danson, and Fire Administrator Joe Palumbo pertaining to an interim automatic aid response plan request following the termination of the same from Moorestown Fire District, No. 2.

December 1, 2023

Statement as to the pending adoption of Ordinance 2023-23 issued by the Township Council.

December 2, 2023

Independent Fire Company conducted a rally inviting residents to support the effort to defeat Ordinance 2023-23.

December 3, 2023

Complaint received pertaining alleged actions and conduct of Andrew Simonsick, Sr. during the extra alarm fire at the Fox Meadow complex on May 7, 2023.

December 4, 2023

Ellen McDowell submits email to Eileen Fahey requesting a mediation process between the fire company and the township to resolve the pending adoption of Ordinance 2023-23 and the claims filed against the township. This request was responded to affirming the township's desire to participate, which was then declined by Ellen McDowell on behalf of the Independent Fire Company.

December 7, 2023

Temporary automatic aid response plan activated by Burlington County Communications replacing Moorestown Fire District, No. 2 with a equally divided geographic response plan that includes support from the Cinnaminson Fire Department, Mount Laurel Fire Department and the Cherry Hill Fire Department during the Monday through Friday 0600-1800 time period.

December 11, 2023

Independent Fire Company conducted a question-and-answer session hosted by Andrew Simonsick, Sr. at the Maple Shade Fire Station both with in-person attendance and a live stream function on social media. Multiple disingenuous statements and allegations presented to the audience, in-person and live streamed by Andrew Simonsick, Sr.

December 14, 2023

Public meeting of the governing body, public hearing and adoption of Ordinance 2023-23 formalizing the deactivation of the Independent Fire Company, No. 1.

- official notification to place the Maple Shade Fire Department out of service with Central Communications.
- official notification to place the Maple Shade Fire Department out of service with BC Fire Coordinator.
- official notification to place the Maple Shade Fire Department out of service with NJ Division of Fire Safety.
- official order issued to former Deputy Chief Alec Fleming, former IFC President Vincent Vioro.
- IFC member Benjamin Callahan restrained and removed from the public meeting by the Maple Shade Police Department due to his conduct, charging the dais, using profanity.
- IFC members Andrew Simonsick, Jr. and Dominic Dodimead presented themselves at the dais, both of them throwing their fire department radio pagers at Councilman Nelson Wiest, calling the members of Township Council "fucking scumbags." No intervention by the Maple Shade Police Department.

December 14, 2023

Automatic mutual aid plan activated, bifurcating Maple Shade Township into three response zones, sustaining fire protection by the Mount Laurel, Cinnaminson, and Cherry Hill Fire Departments.

December 15, 2023

IFC member Andrew Simonsick, Jr. emailed in response to the 12-14-2023 order refusing to return the municipal issued fire department command vehicle from his private residence.

December 15, 2023

Maple Shade Township issues public statement regarding the deactivation of the Independent Fire Company, No. 1, informing the public of uninterrupted fire protection for the municipality.

December 15, 2023

Maple Shade Township full and part-time firefighter hiring announcement, volunteer firefighter hiring and recruitment announcement issued.

December 15, 2023

Revised complaint, order to show cause filed by McDowell with Burlington County Superior Court.

December 16, 2023

McDowell, township resident Heather Talarico, and the IFC initiate a petition effort to repeal Ordinance 2023-23, issuing calls for public support.

December 20, 2023

General Counsel files certification of Fire Administrator Joseph Palumbo with Burlington County Superior Court affirming the uninterrupted fire protection plan for Maple Shade Township, supported by the Mount Laurel, Cinnaminson, and Cherry Hill Fire Departments.

December 27, 2023

General Counsel informed the governing body of a mandatory settlement conference (mediation) scheduled for January 3, 2024 at the Burlington County Court House under the direction of Judge John Harrington.

December 27, 2023

General Counsel notifies McDowell of municipal staff and fire department personnel entering the leased spaces of the IFC facility on South Maple Avenue for official business.

December 28, 2023

Newly appointed members of the Maple Shade Fire Department initiate a three-day training program to prepare for the reactivation of the Maple Shade Fire Department.

-Harassment of Fire Official Dan Kerr documented by IFC member Michael Stevens at the South Maple Avenue fire station.

-Harassment of Firefighter Thomas Constantine documented by IFC member Eugene "Bud" Callahan at the South Maple Avenue fire station.

December 28, 2023

McDowell files a cease-and-desist notice with General Counsel regarding the Maple Shade Fire Department use of the South Maple Avenue (IFC facility) parking lot for fire department training, despite the fact that the municipality repairs, maintains and insures the parking lot.

January 2, 2024

McDowell files a brief with Burlington County Superior Court contending that the Maple Shade Fire Department is comprised of only two personnel (false), and that fire protection is not sustained, and the welfare and safety of Maple Shade residents are at risk (false), despite the certification filed with the Court.

January 3, 2024

Mandatory settlement conference conducted at the Burlington County Courthouse.

-Judge John Harrington issues a “standdown in silence” order prohibiting the municipality from completing readiness efforts to restore the Maple Shade Fire Department and pausing all fire department appointments, and daily work assignments.

-Judge John Harrington, as part of the mediation process, appoints a “neutral” to the Court, a Maple Shade Township resident, John Gee as a “friend of the court” to both parties.

January 6, 2024

John Gee issues an email directive to both parties with a meeting schedule to establish a “framework for the restoration of the Maple Shade Fire Department.”

January 7, 2024

McDowell prepares draft order to Judge Harrington (never formalized or signed) identifying the reactivation of the Independent Fire Company and the appointment of a municipal fire chief (an IFC member). This preparation was in response to Judge Harrington’s announced intentions on January 3, 2024 to have the mediation process concluded within two days.

January 8, 2024**January 10, 2024****January 15, 2024****January 17, 2024****January 22, 2024**

Framework, stipulations, and minimum requirements standard operating procedures developed by what Mr. Gee referred to as the “select committee” of the mediation group, that included Mr. John Gee, retired IFC member and former Fire Chief John Brakso, and Fire Administrator Joseph Palumbo.

January 6, 2024 through January 13, 2024

On multiple occasions, and in contradiction to the “stand down in silence “ order issued by Judge Harrington, McDowell repeatedly attempted to force upon the township the requirement to provide respirator fit testing to IFC members, while the balance of the Maple Shade Fire Department was sidelined and inactive in compliance with the court order.

January 9, 2024

Initial framework and stipulations presented to Judge Harrington, counsel for both parties and Township Council. John Gee, in response to what he referred to as sharing this information with a “wider audience,” forwarded the information to the IFC.

January 15, 2024

Final draft of the framework for the restoration of the Maple Shade Fire Department completed, submitted to the Court and both parties.

January 16, 2024 through February 29, 2024

Citations and regulations provided to John Gee for Andrew Simonsick, Jr. to work alongside John Brasko for the preparation of standard operating procedure drafts for the twenty-one minimum documents agreed to in the framework were failed upon by Andrew Simonsick, Jr. and John Brasko. An outline of the planned standard operating procedures was submitted to both parties by John Gee on February 22, 2024 with no supporting drafts or documentation. On February 29, 2024 the municipality submitted a listing of thirty-three completed Maple Shade Fire Department standard operating procedures that had been completed.

January 21, 2024 through March 7, 2024

A representation/hand drawn footprint of the proposed leased spaces was submitted to the township through McDowell. This followed a total of thirty-four emails, revisions and requests for revisions to the leased spaces within the South Maple Avenue facility to ensure the effective operation and administration of the Maple Shade Fire Department.

January 24, 2024

McDowell submits prepared roster of twenty-three IFC members who wish to join and become members of the Maple Shade Fire Department.

February 12, 2024

An agreed upon tour of the South Maple Avenue facility was planned for and facilitated by John Gee for the members of Township Council. During this tour, Andrew Simonsick, Jr. denied Mayor Schmidt's request for the tour participants to view the IFC bar and lounge on the second floor of the facility, the space being a part of the leased space by the Township of Maple Shade. During this tour, Andrew Simonsick, Jr. affirmed the denial of Maple Shade Fire Department personnel to utilize the kitchen facility within the fire station, nor to have access to lavatory facilities within the fire station specifically for access to the female lavatory by a female member of the Maple Shade Fire Department.

February 26, 2024

McDowell submits to the General Counsel the reported opinion of an independent counsel as to the requirement of the IFC to obtain and maintain a club license and social affairs permits as part of the IFC standard operation for the bar and lounge, as well as the rental hall concession.

March 6, 2024

Maple Shade Fire Department conducts occupational health medical examinations, respirator authorizations, and respirator quantitative fit test protocols to members of the Maple Shade Fire Department at the South Maple Avenue fire station. Of the twenty-three members of the IFC who were provided applications to join the Maple Shade Fire Department following the January 24, 2024 email roster from McDowell, a total of seven applications were received and processed.

March 6, 2024

Andrew Simonsick, Sr. issues a threat to Fire Administrator Joseph Palumbo, interrupting dialogue between Palumbo and a representative of the occupational health third party firm.

March 6, 2024

Andrew Simonsick, Sr. issues a threat to Fire Chief Dan Kerr, witnessed by Fire Inspector Christopher Clark, and recorded by Kerr.

March 7, 2024

A second tour of the South Maple Avenue facility was planned for a provided to the members of Township Council of the IFC bar and lounge on the second floor of the facility. It was verbalized by Andrew Simonsick, Jr. that there is no alcohol stored, or provided by the IFC in the bar and lounge area, and that the only alcohol maintained is brought in by the members of the IFC personally. During this tour, John Gee denied the entry of Fire Official Dan Kerr as part of the tour group, citing "he was not fully vetted by the IFC" to participate in the tour.

March 13, 2024

Maple Shade Township terminates the mediation process with Judge Harrington.

-It became apparent to the Township that Judge Harrington was not impartial, advising Township Council that he had guided the IFC as to future claims of illegal taking of IFC property, improper termination of IFC members by the Township, and affirming to the Township that the IFC was the equivalent of a labor union, having the right to review and file grievances as to the content and application of the MSFD standard operating procedures.

-It became apparent to the Township that the Court appointed "neutral," Mr. John Gee had no longer been acting impartially and had become an advocate for the IFC as to the mediation process.

-The mediation process was bifurcated into multiple, unmanageable sections.

-The mediation process was exhaustively overcommunicated, containing a total of 722 emails.

-The IFC, despite the intention announced by Judge Harrington at the January 3, 2024 settlement conference, agreed with basically nothing, failed to contribute to the process equitably, walked back commitments to licensing and permitting, refused to allow MSFD personnel access to essential spaces in the fire station while abdicating their responsibility for capital improvements to the Township, and produced no product to signify their intention to be a productive part of the Maple Shade Fire Department.

March 14, 2024

McDowell files brief with the Court expressing disappointment at the termination of mediation, requesting the Court to order the IFC to be reactivated and explaining the petition effort/process by the IFC to repeal Ordinance 2023-23.

March 22, 2024

Judge Fikry issued a decision via an order stipulating:

-Ordinance 2023-23 was stayed.

-Ordinance 2023-12 will govern Maple Shade Fire Department operations.

-Maple Shade Township must reactivate the Independent Fire Company.

-Fire apparatus was to be properly allocated between the two planned fire stations.

-Maple Shade Township was permitted to activate the fire department and fire department personnel.

March 24, 2024

Maple Shade Township issues a statement in response to IFC social media posting, disqualifying intentionally false information.

March 24, 2024

McDowell files a letter to Maple Shade General Counsel expressing dissatisfaction with the timeframe at which the township has chosen to respond to the order of the Court issued on March 22, 2024.

March 28, 2024

Maple Shade Township representatives conducted a meeting with Andrew Simonsick, Jr., McDowell and Amanda Hopkins to allow the IFC/Simonsick, Jr. to express their requests at the allocation of apparatus, issuance of personal protective equipment, and staff officer positions for the Maple Shade Fire Department.

April 2, 2024

McDowell files a letter with General Counsel Fahey alleging that Maple Shade Township is acting in bad faith as to the requirement to reactivate the Maple Shade Fire Department, and demanding that Maple Shade Township appoint Andrew Simonsick, Jr. to Fire Chief.

April 4, 2024

General Counsel Fahey issues letter in response to the April 2, 2024 acting in bad faith letter from McDowell.

April 5, 2024

McDowell files a response letter to General Counsel Fahey's letter condemning the acting in bad faith accusations contained in the April 2, 2024 letter from McDowell.

April 5, 2024

General Counsel Fahey files a brief with the Court in response to McDowell/IFC's claims of Maple Shade Township acting in bad faith, requesting a reconsideration of the appointment of Fire Chief.

April 7, 2024

IFC conducts a "town hall meeting" at the South Maple Avenue Fire Station, once again communicating false and intentional disinformation to the public attending in-person and live streamed on social media.

April 7, 2024

IFC issues a "summary" on social media of the August 2021 MOU executed between parties, denying and providing false information as to the IFC defaults on eight of the ten stipulations of the MOU.

April 7, 2024

IFC issues on social media a copy of the March 22, 2024 order of Judge Firky in an effort to support their false claims of Maple Shade Township acting in bad faith.

April 7, 2024

McDowell files a brief with the Court to declare Maple Shade Township was acting in bad faith as to the restoration of the Maple Shade Fire Department and challenging the appointment, credibility and qualifications of Daniel Kerr as the Fire Chief, including a certification of Andrew Simonsick, Jr. containing disingenuous information and statements as to Daniel Kerr's credibility, his past disciplinary action and his personal conduct when serving as an officer of the Maple Shade Fire Department on October 19, 2022.

April 8, 2024

Case management order issued by Judge Firky of Burlington County Superior Court, affirming:

- the appointment of Dan Kerr as the Fire Chief of the Maple Shade Township FD.
- the appointment of Andrew Simonsick, Jr. as the Deputy Fire Chief of the Maple Shade Township FD.
- all fire department operations to be conducted out of the South Maple Avenue fire station.
- the petition to repeal Ordinance 2023-23 was terminated.
- the order to show cause challenging the creation of the Maple Shade Fire Department was terminated.
- the May 13, 2024 hearing as to the challenge of Ordinance 2023-12 was converted to a trial.
- both parties were to demonstrate professional conduct, violations to be reported to the Court.

April 10, 2024

McDowell files a brief with the Court requesting a reconsideration of the order to appoint Daniel Kerr as the Fire Chief of the Maple Shade Fire Department, alleging that Ordinance 2023-12 is ambiguous and in error, and requesting the court to revise the order and appoint Andrew Simonsick, Jr. as the Maple Shade Fire Chief.

April 12, 2024

McDowell files a motion with the Court requesting a reconsideration of the order to appoint Daniel Kerr as the Fire Chief of the Maple Shade Fire Department, alleging that Ordinance 2023-12 is ambiguous and in error, and requesting the court to revise the order and appoint Andrew Simonsick, Jr. as the Maple Shade Fire Chief.

Memorandum of Understanding with Maple Shade Township/Independent Fire Company, No. 1

1. MOU executed fully by both parties on August 31, 2021
2. Agreement(s) Defaulted/Complied with by Independent Fire Company, No.1:
 - a. Amendment of organization by-laws to conform with local ordinance **(defaulted)**,
 - b. Proper reporting of actual active fire department personnel **(defaulted)**,
 - c. Minimum personnel emergency response commitment **(defaulted)**,
 - d. Designation of officer to communicate, respond to Township Manager **(defaulted)**,
 - e. Proper and consistent reporting of fire department responses **(defaulted)**,
 - f. Removal of alcohol from fire station premises by September 1, 2021 **(defaulted)**,
 - g. Compliance with municipal purchasing procedures **(defaulted)**,
 - h. Compliance with entrance and annual physicals for all personnel **(unknown)**,
 - i. Provide current and future activated departmental procedures **(defaulted)**,
 - j. Provide monthly reports of fire department activity to Township Manager **(inconsistent)**,
 - k. Maintenance of compliant fire department training records **(defaulted)**,
 - l. Obtain and maintain a social club license/compliance with use of banquet hall **(defaulted)**,
 - m. Obtain and maintain gaming license(s) required for bingo operation, pull tabs **(unknown)**,
 - n. Agreed to compliance with fundraising efforts, solicitations **(defaulted)**,
 - o. Obtain and maintain general liability insurance **(unknown)**,
 - p. Compliance with municipal personnel procedures for appointment/discharge **(defaulted)**,
 - q. Provide access to fire station for official use **(defaulted)**,
 - r. Provide access to leased portion of fire station to designated municipal staff **(defaulted)**.
3. Agreement(s) defaulted/complied with by municipality:
 - a. Termination of ordinance 2021-12 **(complied with)**,
 - b. Provision of stipend for administrative assistant to the Fire Chief **(declined by VFC)**,
 - c. Provision of stipend to fire department personnel for participation **(incomplete/VFC)**.

Sanctions/Formal Actions (Maple Shade Township)

1. Suspension of Independent Fire Company, No. 1 from service 05-10-2021.
2. Administrative suspension of Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. 09-27-2021.
3. Administrative suspension of Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. 06-28-2023.

Sanctions/Formal Actions (New Division of Fire Safety)

1. Complaint investigation initiated on 08-29-2022 for mutual-aid abuse on contiguous community fire departments responding to Maple Shade Township due to the number of Mape Shade Fire Department no responses.
2. Hometown Suites fire alarm system complaint investigation involving the actions of Battalion Chief Andrew Simonsick, Jr. initiated on 10-26-2022 for actions documented on 10-19-2022.
3. Local fire mutual aid plan prepared by DFS ordered for implementation on MSFD 02-02-2023.
4. Notice of violation of State Emergency Deployment Act issued to Chief Andrew Simonsick issued on 02-14-2023 for actions documented on 02-11-2023.
5. Warning notice issued to Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. and Deputy Chief Alec Fleming for willfully false statements documented pertaining to active DFS investigations regarding the Maple Shade Fire Department.
6. Revocation of credentials enforced upon Chief Andrew Simonsick, Sr. 06-28-2023.

Open/Pending Investigations regarding the Maple Shade Fire Department

1. Training certification and credentialing of personnel-New Jersey Division of Fire Safety
2. Fire Department compliance the New Jersey Emergency Deployment Act, local response planning.

Sanctions/Formal Actions (Public Employees Occupational Health and Safety-PEOSH)

1. Formal complaint investigation initiated on 09-15-2021, cited the following violations:
 - a. 29 CFR 1910.120(q)(2) failure to develop an emergency response plan,
 - b. 29 CFR 1910.120(q)(8)(i) training program develop to ensure competency,
 - c. 29 CFR 1910.134(c)(1) failure to develop and practice Respiratory Protection Program,
 - d. 29 CFR 1910.134(f)(2) failure to fit test respirator masks annually, maintain records,
 - e. 29 CFR 1910.134(h)(3)(iv)(A) failure to document, maintain program records,
 - f. 29 CFR 1910.134(k)(5) failure to provide fire department personnel proper training,
 - g. 29 CFR 1910.1030(c)(1)(i) failure to develop and practice an exposure control plan,
 - h. 29 CFR 1910.1030(f)(1)(i) failure to develop and practice a Hepatitis B control plan,
 - i. 29 CFR 1910.1200(g)(1) failure to develop and maintain hazardous chemical information,
 - j. N.J.A.C. 12-100 10.14 (a) failure to provide training to personnel to fill air cylinders,
 - k. N.J.A.C. 12-100 10.14 (b) unsafe air cylinder filling operations.