

**Board of Fire Commissioners
Fire District No. 1
330 Stillwells Corner Road
Freehold, NJ 07728**

Regular Meeting & Budget Hearing

December 27, 2022

Chairman John Toutouchi called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 7:00pm, and 1st Assistant Dan Spicuzza led the flag salute. Roll call was taken, and the Commissioners present at the meeting were John Toutouchi, Andrew Story, Michael Fogarty and Phil Engel. Board Secretary-Rachel Davis was also present at the meeting. This meeting was live streamed.

Chairman Toutouchi suspended the regular order of business to open up the budget hearing.

Motion was made by Mr. Story to open up the budget hearing at 7:01pm.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

Audience: No questions or comments from the public.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to close the budget hearing at 7:02pm.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

Chairman Toutouchi continued the regular business meeting.

Commissioner Fogarty reviewed the 2023 Adopted Budget Resolution.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to approve the 2023 Adopted Budget Resolution for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote:

Mr. Engel: yes

Mr. Fogarty: yes

Mr. Lengyel: absent

Mr. Story: yes

Mr. Toutouchi: yes

Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Fogarty read the December 27, 2022 Treasurer's Report into record.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to transfer \$80,000 from Ocean First Money Market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$73,208.65.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

Mr. Fogarty read a Resolution Authorizing Budget Transfers and/or Encumbrances.

East Coast Emergency Lighting estimates are to be paid in February but will be included in the 2022 budget.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Budget Transfers and Encumbrances.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

Mr. Engel: yes

Mr. Fogarty: yes

Mr. Lengyel: absent

Mr. Story: yes

Mr. Toutouchi: yes

Insurance: Mr. Fogarty is submitting a claim to the insurance company for the Georgia Road ceiling repair.

Buildings: Light switch in the bay and conference room are being worked on.

Website: Progress per Commissioner Engel.

Fire Company:

1st Asst. Dan Spicuzza reported the following:

- Inquired about insurance cards
- Tires are on order for 87; Good Year will help with replacing the tires on 90. Board suggested checking the tire pressures monthly.
- He will get an estimate for the outlet in 87 for batteries and tools.
- Captain Erik Schneider had nothing to report. Mr. Story asked who does the pagers. Captain Schneider indicated that he would take over in 2023. Board asked for an update on pagers. 1st Asst. Chief Spicuzza noted that they have 3 and are waiting on 6 or 7. It was confirmed that pagers are returned when someone leaves.

Vice President Mike Celano thanked the Board for a good year. Dan Petersen will be taking over as President and Robert Bereheiko as Vice President. Mr. Celano asked about handbooks and LOSAP. Board said they will discuss the matter later in the meeting.

Old Business:

Commissioner Story reviewed his revised LOSAP points system. The Board decided to review it further in executive session.

Mr. Story updated the Board on the driver abstracts and background checks. He sent the background check to the Commissioners' e-mail. He will send the e-mail to the rest of the members within a day or two. Mr. Toutouchi confirmed that there will be no background checks on juniors or anyone who was hired within the last six months. Driver abstracts will be done on anyone over 21, including ladies' auxiliary (and background checks for ladies' auxiliary as well).

Mr. Story also updated the Board on the Indianapolis trip on April 24-29, 2023. The seminars will cost \$620 per person; flights cost approximately \$208-215 per person. He couldn't find a hotel with three rooms. Mr. Story asked for the Board's approval to proceed. It will be approximately \$3,720 for classes. The Board gave approval to book the hotel and pay for the classes.

Commissioner Fogarty will order the QuickBooks that he discussed at the last meeting but will order the full version for \$100 more a year. No one objected.

Mr. Fogarty further noted that TD Finance requested letters of insurance for 80 & 90 showing that they are the lienholder, and Jen provided it.

Mr. Fogarty mentioned that Jack Purvis and Hall Construction went through the review of the drawings. The work should start in a couple weeks. Commissioner Engel will look into the status of the construction permits.

Mr. Fogarty updated the Board on the bond closing. The Board Auditor and Bond Attorney are discussing it with the Township. The rate has not been approved yet.

Commissioner Engel shared his concern about the length of the harassment training for the management classes. He suggested that moving forward, the management classes should be shorter. The Board will look into the matter and see how the insurance company advises.

New Business: Commissioner Fogarty suggested changing to Associated Specialty Insurance Agency, effective January 1, 2023 for the workers' compensation due to the fact that it is \$5,000 cheaper than The Hartford Insurance Company.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to cancel The Hartford Insurance and move to Associated Specialty Insurance for the workers' compensation as of January 1st for the fiscal year of 2023.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

Audience: Andy Ollwerther asked about upgrading from a 2-yard dumpster to a 3-yard dumpster. The Board agreed.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to go into executive at 8:02pm.

Second: Mr. Story

4-0 all in favor

(back from executive 9:13pm)

There being no further business, Mr. Story made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm.

Second: Mr. Fogarty

4-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Engel, Secretary

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