

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

**Regular Meeting**

**February 28, 2023**

Chairman John Toutouchi called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 7pm, and Chief Haas 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. Board Attorney-Neil Braslow joined the meeting via teleconference and advised that Attorney-Richard Braslow would join the meeting shortly.

**Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to approve the February 13, 2023 regular minutes.**

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

**Insurance:** Commissioner Fogarty advised the Board of the following:

- Worker's Compensation audit still ongoing.
- Nottingham Insurance requested verification of those who are entitled to a death benefit. The Board then reviewed the Group Team Census Certification from Glatfelter Specialty Benefits from March of 2022 and revised it to reflect the correct/current members.
- Still waiting on the telephone pole incident.

**Treasurer's Report:** Commissioner Fogarty read the February 28, 2023 Treasurer's Report into record.

**Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to transfer \$175,000 from Ocean First Money Market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$166,213.97.**

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

Mr. Fogarty noted that the increased transfer amount will be going to payroll. The bill payment also includes the first payment to Hall Construction.

**Chief's Report:** Chief Craig Haas reported the following:

- It was determined that 93 is not cost effective to keep in service and recommended that it be sold;
- Rescue is back from PNL and will be going in March for preventative maintenance;
- Anticipates 76 coming back this weekend;
- PASS alarms to be donated or sold;
- Discussed radios with the Board.

Commissioner Toutouchi stressed the importance of an inventory system being put in place for accountability.

Mr. Story reminded Chief Haas about the closet that needs to be cleaned out.

**Executive Office:** President Dan Petersen reported the following:

- Resignation of Junior Member Ben Rosen;
- Antique truck is at Smithburg—he will get documentation;
- Someone needs to maintain the first aid kit in the bay at Smithburg.

Commissioner Toutouchi mentioned the final walk through for the replacement cameras at Smithburg and indicated that the cameras are in place for accountability, theft and harassment purposes. President Petersen said he is waiting to hear back from the Fire Company's attorney regarding the legality of infringing on rights to privacy. Mr. Toutouchi also mentioned that the members' room is a community room, and the cameras will protect everyone, not just one individual. Commissioner Fogarty added that both—the Board and the Fire Company have vested interests in the cameras from an insurance perspective, in the case where someone gets injured and sues the Fire Company.

**Old Business:** Commissioner Story reported the following:

- He will send out emails for the background checks now that the budget has officially been approved. He will work on the timeline. He apologized for being behind on the DMV part, but he will work on that after the background checks.
- At some point we need to have a lengthy meeting on LOSAP.
- Indianapolis trip is set for April 25-29. Those going are Commissioner Story, Chief Haas, Lt. Celano, Jon Dunberg, Mike Carter and Shawn Poole. The hotel is booked, and airfare was taken care of.

**Buildings:** Commissioner Fogarty updated on the construction at the District building.

Board Attorney-Richard Braslow joined the meeting at 7:35pm via teleconference.

**Legal:** Mr. Braslow reported as follows:

- Closed session minutes are not revealed to the public until the issues are resolved.
- He clarified that every district does not have to move their elections to November.

- Municipalities can issue notes for only 3 years, trying to increase.

**Final results of the election:** Commissioner Story read the election results as follows:

Budget: 301 yes, 149 no

Andrew Story: 384

John Toutouchi: 381

The reorganizational meeting will be next month.

**New Business:** The Board had a discussion with Mr. Braslow about cameras inside the fire chief vehicles. Mr. Braslow did not recommend it. Commissioner Engel inquired about cameras facing out, not into the vehicle, so that you can see first view of what the officer saw when he/she arrived on location. The Board discussed in detail. Mr. Engel will research it further. Discussion was also held about cameras on helmets for educational purposes. Mr. Braslow will research it and let the Board know.

**Audience:** (none)

**There being no further business, Mr. Engel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm.**

Second: Mr. Story

4-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Engel, Secretary

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