

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

Regular Meeting

February 13, 2024

Chairman John Toutouchi called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 6:00pm, and Chief Haas led the flag salute. Roll call was taken, and the Commissioners present at the meeting were John Toutouchi, Michael Fogarty and Phil Engel. Board Secretary-Rachel Davis was also present at the meeting.

Chairman Toutouchi suspended the regular order of business to go into executive session.

Audience: (none)

Commissioner Andrew Story joined the meeting at 6:02pm.

Motion was made by Mr. Engel to go into executive session at 6:02pm for personnel reasons.

Second: Mr. Fogarty

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

(back from executive at 7:28pm – Commissioner Story temporarily left the meeting during executive session.)

Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Fogarty read the February 13, 2024 Treasurer's Report into record.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to transfer \$160,000 from Ocean First Money Market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$159,041.97.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 3-0 all in favor

(Commissioner Story returned to the meeting; Commissioner Engel temporarily left the meeting at 7:30pm)

Mr. Fogarty noted that the half million-dollar bond was cleared from the Township, and the Monmouth County BAN money was deposited.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2024 regular and executive meetings.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 3-0 all in favor

(Mr. Engel returned to the meeting at 7:33pm)

Correspondence: Commissioner Toutouchi noted the misspelling of Ronald Osadacz's name on the election ballots as well as in the minutes, which will be corrected. Commissioner Story apologized to Mr. Osadacz for the misspelling. Mr. Toutouchi reminded everyone that the elections will be held on Saturday from 2pm to 9pm, and no one should be politicking while the elections are going on. Mr. Story also noted to the candidates that they are more than welcome to wait with everyone in the conference room for the results after 9pm.

Insurance: (nothing to report)

Chief's Report: Chief Haas read his report into record, as follows:

- 90 at Fire & Safety;
- 87 compressors being looked at for service;
- Chief is looking at 87's cameras;
- 93's pump is being dealt with at a later point;
- Clocks are ticking on the air packs—Chief Petersen said the bottles will be going out of date, and the bottles are hard to get. He said the air pack standards will be changing. Commissioner Story said we were waiting for the change to happen. Commissioner Fogarty said that they should have quotes by August/September so that the Board can budget for it.
- Jackson Mills preemption not working—Chief Petersen said it is outdated. Commissioner Toutouchi said Commissioner Engel will look into quotes for next year's budget.
- Gear cleaning is going to start by next week for gear that's seen smoke and fire.

A discussion was held on evaluating and ordering new gear. Lt. Celano said he could give the Board his evaluation on the gear, but in the meantime, he said there were three people who need gear right away. Commissioner Fogarty suggested that we hold off on ordering anything at the moment until we can get a committee to come to an educated decision on gear evaluation using Lt. Celano's data. Lt. Celano noted that the gear is expired according to NFPA regulations, he will put the guys in the expired gear and hope that nothing happens. Lt. Celano said he has brought this up 4 months ago. Mr. Story suggested about sharing gear from 5% members, and we will meet next Tuesday to discuss the gear.

Commissioner Fogarty suggested that, going forward from a cost perspective, he wants vouchers to be submitted with the invoice attached to the voucher after purchase. When it comes to large purchases, he wants committees on various topics (gear, Holmatro tools, 3-5 year truck plans, etc.).

Old Business: (none)

New Business: Commissioner Engel addressed the generators at Smithburg and District and proposed an annual service plan from Warshauer in the amount of \$1,700/year to inspect and maintain both generators. The Board approved. Mr. Fogarty asked Mr. Engel to follow up with him when it is due.

Mr. Toutouchi noted that East Coast quote for exterior cameras on the truck is \$917/truck with installation for the three Chief's vehicles. A discussion was held about audio being an invasion of privacy.

Audience: Ronald Osadacz, Jr., 10 Spruce Street, Freehold, NJ, appreciated Commissioner Story's apology and does not believe there was any intent but wanted to put on the record that if there were any absentee ballots under "Osadale," that they be recognized as Osadacz. He also wanted to comment on the Board's discussion about audios on the exterior cameras. Being a police officer, he knows that

there are pros to cameras, but there are cons as well—the attorneys will subpoena the video and use it for lawsuits.

Richard Frascati, 131 Prescott Place, Freehold, NJ, wanted to let the Board know that the time for the meetings listed on the District website says 7pm. Commissioner Engel clarified that the meeting time changed to 6pm last year, and he will have the website corrected.

There being no further business, Mr. Engel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm.

Second: Mr. Fogarty

4-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Engel, Secretary

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