

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

Regular Meeting & LOSAP Hearing

October 24, 2023

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, Andrew Story and Stephen Lengyel. Michael Fogarty joined the meeting via teleconference. Board Attorney-Richard Braslow joined the meeting via teleconference. Board Secretary-Rachel Davis was also present at the meeting.

Chairman Toutouchi delayed the regular order of business to conduct the open hearing for the LOSAP, as advertised. Board Attorney-Mr. Braslow read the Notice of Hearing.

Commissioner Story reviewed the LOSAP amendments, as follows:

A new member must achieve one year of active service in the Fire Department, prior to being enrolled into the program. A minimum of 50 points are required to earn a year of active service.

- 1. Participation of Department Fire Calls**
 - Any member making between 30% and 39% of the Company's Fiscal's years calls will earn **25 points**
 - Any member making above 40% of the Company's Fiscal's years calls will earn **35 points**
- 2. Company Monthly Drills**
 - Members will receive **1 point** for each monthly drill attended (**MAX of 12 per year**)
- 3. Company Monthly Business Meetings**
 - Members will receive **1 point** for each monthly meeting attended (**MAX of 12 per year**)
- 4. Company Monthly Work Details**
 - Members will receive **1 point** for each monthly work detail attended (**MAX of 12 per year**)
- 5. Company Yearly Extrication Drills**
 - Members will receive **1 point** for each extrication drill attended (**MAX of 6 per year**)
- 6. Elected or Appointed Positions**
 - Line Officer – **25 points**
 - Executive Board – **25 points**
 - Trustee – **25 points**
 - Company Engineer – **25 points**
 - Commissioner – **25 points**
- 7. Military Service**
 - **50 points** per year of full-time enlisted military service (**MAX of 4 years**)
- 8. Training Classes**
 - Classes under 20 hours of duration – **5 points per class**
 - Classes between 21 and 45 hours of duration – **10 points per class**
 - Classes over 46 hours of duration – **15 points per class**

9. Company “Deemed” Extras

- Members will receive **1 point** for each attended company “deemed” extra. Examples of extras are not limited to Fire Prevention events, Junior Drills, fundraisers, Line Officer/Executive Board approved drills and work details, special meetings, etc. **(MAX of 30 points)**

Commissioner Phil Engel joined the meeting at 6:05pm.

Mr. Braslow asked if there was any discussion among Board members about the proposed LOSAP changes. Commissioner Story asked if the Board has to do another hearing to increase the monetary benefit, and Mr. Braslow noted that DCA requires a resolution 60 days prior to the election and place it on the ballot in February.

Motion was made by Mr. Story to open the LOSAP hearing at 6:08pm.

Second: Mr. Lengyel

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Questions from the Public:

Captain Dan Petersen asked about members who are on suspension or discipline. The Board explained that all they are changing is the opportunity to get points, and they are not changing whatever rules were in the past.

Lt. Celano asked why the Board is not only concerned with people in good standing with the Fire Company. Mr. Braslow noted that the first requirement to receive LOSAP is to be an active firefighter, and maybe the definition of an active firefighter should be changed.

Chief Haas expressed his concern about a line drawn between the Fire Company and the Fire District. The Board explained that they were not going against the Fire Company; the Board is trying to provide an incentive to keep members and not to be quick to get rid of members.

Motion was made by Mr. Lengyel to close the LOSAP hearing at 6:35pm.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Motion was made by Mr. Story to adopt the LOSAP amendments.

Second: Mr. Fogarty

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

At this time, Chairman Toutouchi proceeded with the regular order of business.

Treasurer’s Report: Commissioner Engel read the October 24, 2023 Treasurer’s Report into record on behalf of Commissioner Fogarty.

Motion was made by Mr. Engel to transfer \$5,000 from Ocean First Money Market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$4,306.82.

Second: Mr. Lengyel

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Motion was made by Mr. Lengyel to approve the regular minutes from the September 26, 2023 meeting as well as the regular and executive minutes from the October 10, 2023 meeting.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Buildings: Commissioner Lengyel reported that the electricians will be out for the OSHA items. Mr. Fogarty asked about the form for the generator; Mr. Lengyel will call and take care of it.

Legal: Mr. Braslow said he will prepare the notices for the election. He needs an email with the term limits. Mr. Braslow asked about the Resolution Establishing Compensation for 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Lengyel approving the Resolution Establishing Compensation for 2024, which will remain the same as last year.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Fire Company: Chief Craig Haas said that the hose testing is tomorrow and Thursday. He tried Pete Hall several times regarding the MDT's, no luck getting him. Mr. Story said we will look into outsourcing for things like that, and use Pete for computers in the office. Mr. Toutouchi reminded Chief Haas to send a message to all members to copy their call sheets; checks to be deposited once the reports are submitted. Also asked Chief Haas what the procedure is for driver training.

President Dan Petersen reported progress.

Old Business: Chairman Toutouchi reviewed the budget with the Fire Company.

Audience: (none)

Motion was made by Mr. Lengyel to go into executive session for personnel reasons at 7:26pm.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

(back from executive 8:02pm)

There being no further business, Mr. Engel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02pm.

Second: Mr. Lengyel

5-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Engel, Secretary
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