

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

**Regular Meeting (Workshop)**

**March 14, 2023**

Vice Chairman Andrew Story 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 Andrew Story, Phil Engel and Stephen Lengyel. Board Secretary-Rachel Davis was also present at the meeting.

**Legal:** Due to results of the election last month, Commissioner Story advised the Board that he and Commissioner Toutouchi had already been sworn in separately by the Board Attorney earlier in the week. Commissioner Engel congratulated Commissioner Story on his reelection.

Mr. Story read the Resolution Authorizing Appointment of Special Counsel for the complaint concerning alleged inappropriate conduct relative to volunteer Fire Company members.

**Motion was made by Mr. Story to approve the Resolution Authorizing Appointment of Special Counsel-Machado Law Group.**

Second: Mr. Lengyel

Roll call vote: 3-0 all in favor

**Motion was made by Mr. Story to approve the February 28, 2023 regular minutes.**

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 3-0 all in favor

**Insurance:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief Frank Santore was in an accident, which was not his fault.

**Buildings:** Commissioner Lengyel reported the following:

- Bay lights are almost finished;
- The bathroom has been delayed, waiting for the showers;
- District work is on schedule;
- The generator at Smithburg was fixed.

Commissioner Engel asked for an update on the results of the recent fire inspection. Mr. Lengyel will have the balance of it finished by tomorrow.

Chief Haas asked about the back door closing. Mr. Lengyel will have the contractor look at it.

**Website:** Board Secretary-Rachel Davis reported that it was up to date.

Commissioner Fogarty joined the meeting at 7:08pm.

**Legal (cont'd):**

**Motion was made by Mr. Story that all Commissioners continue with their current positions and responsibilities, as follows:**

**Chairman: Mr. Toutouchi**

**Vice Chairman: Mr. Story**

**Treasurer: Mr. Fogarty**

**Secretary: Mr. Engel**

**Clerk: Mr. Lengyel**

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

**Motion was made by Mr. Story to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Appointment of Auditor Gerard Stankiewicz for the Year 2023-2024.**

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

**Motion was made by Mr. Story to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Appointment of Attorney Richard M. Braslow, Esq., for the 2023-2024 Year.**

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

**Motion was made by Mr. Story to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Reappointment of Board Secretary-Rachel Davis.**

Second: Mr. Fogarty

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

**Motion was made by Mr. Story to appoint Wendy Dunberg as Executive Assistant to the Board for the 2023-2024 year.**

Second: Mr. Fogarty

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

**Treasurer's Report:** Commissioner Fogarty read the March 14, 2023 Treasurer's Report into record.

**Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to transfer \$240,000 from Ocean First Money Market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$233,698.49.**

Second: Mr. Lengyel

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

**Chief's Report:** Chief Haas had nothing to report.

**Old Business:**

Mr. Fogarty noted that he had adjusted the payroll to reflect the increases, and if anyone had any questions, let him know.

Mr. Story confirmed that Brothers Landscaping is maintaining Georgia Road bi-weekly at \$65. He also noted that if it is prepaid, they take a 5% discount. Board agreed to prepay. He will get a quote on a spring cleaning and report back to the Board.

Mr. Story looked into a digital sign company and will get a quote. The sign company will bring a sign to the next meeting as an example. Commissioner Engel will look into the requirements for a digital sign from the Township and report back to the Board.

Mr. Fogarty advised the Board that The Hartford worker's compensation audit was finished, and they are refunding \$27,000. The Board then discussed how this is becoming an issue because of the budget.

Board members confirmed that all post-election paperwork was done and sent to the State.

Mr. Story noted that the background check emails will be going out.

**New Business:** Mr. Fogarty spoke about the plans for the 2022 audit.

**Buildings (cont'd):**

Commissioner Lengyel shared his concern that the renovation budget is reaching its limit and decisions must be made.

Commissioner Fogarty discussed the parking issue at the District, and the Board discussed possible parking signs.

**Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to go into executive session at 7:43pm for purposes of discussing a personnel matter.**

Second: Mr. Lengyel

4-0 all in favor

(back from executive 7:51pm)

**Audience:** (none)

**There being no further business, Mr. Lengyel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52pm.**

Second: Mr. Engel

4-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Engel, Secretary

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