

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

Regular Meeting

August 21, 2023

Chairman John Toutouchi called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 5pm, and President Dan Petersen 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-Richard Braslow joined the meeting via teleconference and read the meeting notice.

Motion was made by Mr. Story to approve the August 7, 2023 regular and executive minutes.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 4 -0 all in favor

Correspondence: (none)

Buildings: Commissioner Fogarty noted that Commissioner Lengyel will be working up a short list of things that still need to be done to finish up the construction at the District firehouse.

Insurance: (nothing to report)

Legal: Mr. Braslow had nothing new to report, other than we are still waiting for a response on the camera issue.

Chief's Report: Lt. Mike Celano reported a leak in 16-1-80's pump; Fire & Safety will work on it on Monday. Lt. Celano also asked where we stand with replacing the packs, and Commissioner Story said we are working on the grants but they won't be replaced until 2024. Lt. Celano also asked for approval to use cameras for a promo piece. The Board discussed.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to approve the use of cameras for fire scenes and drills, but the Board is not purchasing the cameras, and it must follow the Board's social media policies.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 3-0 in favor (Mr. Story abstained.)

Captain Erik Schneider gave an update on pagers.

Fire Company: President Dan Petersen reported that 1st Assistant Chief Dan Spicuzza resigned as Chief. He also thanked the Board for the extrication training over the weekend. After expenses, the balance of the proceeds in the amount of \$1,100 were donated.

Commissioner Lengyel joined the meeting at 5:25pm.

Audience: Ex-Chief Ralph Reifer asked about the Board's recent policy regarding only family members in a Chief's car, and the Board explained their policy.

Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Fogarty read the August 21, 2023 Treasurer's Report into record.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to transfer \$35,000 from Ocean First Money Market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$30,896.18.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Motion was made by Mr. Lengyel to go into executive session for personnel reasons at 5:30pm.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

(Back from executive at 5:55pm.)

Old Business:

- Board discussed researching grants—work in progress.
- Mr. Story will be finished with LOSAP in a week or two.
- Mr. Story updated the Board on the ID maker. He is working on a QR code.
- Mr. Fogarty reminded the Board that the Fire Company contract is way overdue for getting signed.
- Mr. Toutouchi updated the Board on the OSHA walkthrough, which should commence sometime in September. Lt. Celano will advise Chief Haas, and he let the Board know that he is still updating the certificates. The Board told him to take his time.

Commissioner Story had to leave the meeting at 6pm.

Commissioner Toutouchi gave an update on physicals, which was previously sent out to all Drivers, Line Officers, Members, Commissioners, Officers/Leadership. He read it into the record, as follows:

Nothing has changed, and if there are any changes, it will be communicated. Medical clarification (physicals):

- A. Interior—must still be able to wear a pack;
- B. Exterior only—must still be able to wear a pack;
- C. Support only—must still be able to wear a pack.

If you are not cleared for respirator use, then you are on medical. You will be notified.

The Chief will be notified on your clearance level, however, if you do not feel comfortable doing something that you are cleared to do, that is your responsibility to communicate with Operation Leadership, especially while on a scene.

New Business:

Motion was made by Mr. Engel to change all future Board of Commissioner meeting times from 7pm to 6pm.

Second: Mr. Fogarty

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Commissioner Engel thanked the Board for moving the meetings to 5pm on Mondays during the summer.

Mr. Fogarty asked Lt. Celano to inform Chief Haas to start having a conversation on their budget.

There being no further business, Mr. Lengyel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:09pm.

Second: Mr. Engel

4-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Engel, Secretary
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