

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

Regular Meeting

January 9, 2024

Chairman John Toutouchi called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 6:00pm and 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 also joined the meeting via teleconference.

Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Fogarty read the January 9, 2024 Treasurer's Report into record.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to transfer \$40,000 from Ocean First Money Market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$39,761.83.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

Mr. Fogarty updated the Board on the Bond Anticipation Note (BAN).

Motion was made by Mr. Story to approve the minutes from the December 26, 2023 regular, budget hearing and executive meetings.

Second: Mr. Fogarty

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

Fire Company: President Kevin Keane introduced the new Executive Board, as follows:

President: Kevin Keane

Vice President: Bob Bereheiko

Secretary: Josh Olin

Assistant Secretary: Mike Carter

Treasurer: Chris Puccio

Assistant Treasurer: Nick Petersen

Trustees: Bill Clayton, Mike Vota, Mike Schiefelbein

Mr. Fogarty advised President Keane that he had requested the Fire Company's audit for 2021 from Treasurer Chris Puccio.

Mr. Toutouchi advised President Keane that the cameras and controlled access are still a work in progress at Smithburg. All access will be transferred over, and key fobs are working for their office.

Chief's Report:

Chief Haas updated the Board on the Line Officers' responsibilities and three engineers. Chief Haas also discussed gas meters as surplus items. Commissioner Fogarty asked for written information on the surplus items. Chief Haas also shared his opinion on the difference in the gear options.

Mr. Toutouchi suspended the regular order of service at 6:27pm so the Board can listen to an Alpine Software demo.

Board Attorney-Mr. Braslow joined the meeting via teleconference at 7:00pm.

New Business: Mr. Toutouchi noted that in March they will be restriping the parking lot for \$2,600 as well as obtaining removable signs to be helpful in the future.

Commissioner Story gave another update on the Indianapolis trip. He is researching flight information.

Legal: Mr. Braslow reminded everyone that a closed session discussion is considered confidential, and the minutes of said closed session should only be revealed when the matter is resolved. If there is any breach of the confidentiality, it is a potential criminal offense.

Mr. Braslow reiterated the responsibilities of Board members, which is to insure fire protection for the residents and taxpayers of the fire district. This includes providing the appropriate manpower, appropriate equipment and assets. The Board has extensive amount of authority, but ultimately, the buck stops with the Board.

Commissioner Fogarty mentioned that the audit for last year is complete. He will upload to DCA and then the budget will be considered adopted.

Mr. Story wished luck to Chief Haas and is looking forward to a good 2024.

Audience: Ronald Osadale, Jr., 10 Spruce Street, Freehold, NJ, and Richard Frascati, 131 Prescott Place, Freehold, NJ handed in their petitions to run for commissioner. Commissioner Story noted for the record that he received a total of four (4) petitions for commissioner. Mr. Braslow noted that the deadline is the 19th, and he will take a look at them.

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

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

(back from executive at 7:50pm)

There being no further business, Mr. Fogarty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm.

Second: Mr. Engel

4-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Engel, Secretary
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