

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

Regular Meeting

September 10, 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, Phil Engel and Jonathan Dunberg. Board Secretary- Rachel Davis was also present.

Chairman Toutouchi asked for a moment of silence in memory of all those who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack.

Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Fogarty read the September 10, 2024 Treasurer's Report into record.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to transfer \$110,000 from Ocean First Money Market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$106,174.67.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to approve the minutes from the August 27, 2024 regular meeting.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

Correspondence: Mr. Toutouchi read the following correspondence received into record:

- August 28, 2024 e-mail from Dan Spicuzza stating that he will no longer be an active firefighter but will remain a life member.
- September 2, 2024 e-mail from FTHS Music Parents requesting a book bin be placed on the District firehouse property as a fundraiser. The Board had questions, so Mr. Toutouchi will find out more information.
- September 7, 2024 e-mail from Happy Hearts Foundation requesting a clothing drive for one day at Georgia Road firehouse property. The Board did not object, as long as the public knows that it is for one day only.

Mr. Toutouchi made the Board aware of two anonymous Chiefs' vehicles complaints—one was speeding and another was careless driving (one in Marlboro and the other in Freehold). Since these complaints were anonymous, the Board will only mention said complaints into the minutes.

Buildings:

Commissioner Engel updated the Board on the various repairs that were done. Mr. Toutouchi advised the Board that Commissioner Story is still working on getting the sign quote.

Commissioner Fogarty updated the Board on RedAlert. Training classes will be starting soon.

New Business: Commissioner Fogarty advised that he will take care of the insurance policy and Commissioner Story will take care of the LOSAP payment to John Bihuniak's wife.

Commissioner Toutouchi advised that physicals are complete, and he notified the Chief as to who is on administrative leave. Mr. Toutouchi also shared information from Mr. Braslow, who said that there is no state mandate to provide any kind of physical that is fire specific, it is all department specific and has nothing to do with the state.

Mr. Toutouchi relayed a message from Commissioner Story to the officers who were present at the meeting: members should not be wearing someone else's gear, while their gear is being washed. There is a policy in place. Mr. Fogarty also mentioned that the tan gear can be used as a spare in each firehouse.

Correspondence (cont'd.):

Commissioner Toutouchi read additional correspondence received:

- 2nd Assistant Chief Dan Petersen's (undated) resignation letter to Freehold Independent Fire Company Members, Officers and Commissioners.
- September 7, 2024 letter from Chief Craig Haas to the Board of Fire Commissioners, responding to Chief Petersen's resignation.

Commissioner Fogarty read the September 5, 2024 e-mail from Captain Mike Celano to Chief Haas with a copy to 1st Assistant Chief Santore and 2nd Assistant Chief Schneider.

Commissioner Engel read the September 7, 2024 correspondence from 2nd Assistant Chief Erik Schneider to whom it may concern.

Audience: Firefighter Ralph Reifer asked if the LOSAP should be posted for the members to see. Commissioner Fogarty said it was in the minutes from earlier this year. In the future, when RedAlert is active, every member can see what has been accrued since 2023.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to go into executive session for personnel reasons at 7:02pm.

Second: Mr. Dunberg

4-0 all in favor

(back from executive at 8:41)

There being no further business, Mr. Fogarty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41pm.

Second: Mr. Engel

4-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Dunberg, Secretary

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