

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

Regular Meeting

September 24, 2024

Chairman John Toutouchi called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 7:00pm, and Chief Haas led the flag salute. Roll call was taken, and the Commissioners present at the meeting were John Toutouchi, Andrew Story, Michael Fogarty, Phil Engel and Jonathan Dunberg. Board Secretary-Rachel Davis was also present. Board Attorneys-Richard Braslow and Neil Braslow attended the meeting via teleconference, and the notice was read.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2024 regular and executive meetings.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Fogarty read the September 24, 2024 Treasurer's Report into record.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to transfer \$30,000 from Ocean First Money Market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$27,562.10.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Mr. Toutouchi inquired about the Fire Company's tax exempt status, and Mr. Braslow indicated that this matter is a Fire Company issue, not a Fire District issue.

Audience:

Ex Chief Dan Spicuzza (17 Dickenson Court, Freehold, NJ) said it was brought to his attention that certain letters were read at the September 10th Board of Commissioners' meeting, and because his name was mentioned in one of those letters, he wanted to clear up some of the details where his name was involved. He also wanted to let the Board know that his resignation as 1st Assistant Chief of the Fire Company had nothing to do with what was written in Chief Haas' letter but rather that he could not put up with the nonsense as an officer in this Fire Company.

Member Andrew Ollwerther asked if he could move the bunting from underneath the door to the front. Commissioner Story will work on it with him.

Deb Henry (92 Stratford Drive, Freehold, NJ) spoke with regard to the harassment allegations. Mr. Braslow advised that this matter be addressed in closed session in order to gather more details from Ms. Henry on the subject. Ms. Henry wished to speak on the record that, although no violation was found, she still believes that the culture of the fire department needs to change, and she was disappointed that

no action was taken as a result of those events. She also thinks that the Commissioners should seriously consider why there aren't more women in the fire department and what that looks like for expectations of other firefighters moving forward.

John Catenacci (47 Jason Court, Freehold, NJ) asked if there was any reason why there hasn't been apparatus in the Georgia Road fire house in three months. Commissioner Story advised Mr. Catenacci that, at the moment, there is truck maintenance. He also explained that the response time was more efficient with a truck and a crew from the District vs. Georgia Road.

Motion was made by Mr. Story to go into executive session for purposes of personnel matters at 7:15pm.

Second: Mr. Fogarty

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

(back from executive 8:50pm)

Chairman Toutouchi advised the Board about the Laura Donovan Trunk-or-Treat children using the District's bathrooms. The Board did not object, as long as someone will be responsible for them and make sure the bathrooms are kept clean.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to surplus all of the expired Scott bottles.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Board discussed using Georgia Road expired gear (outer shell jackets) for extrication calls.

Chief's Report:

- Preventative Maintenance is almost done;
- Hose testing 10/31-11/1;
- Pump test 10/25;
- Extinguisher testing completed;
- Getting pricing for 4 pagers;
- Requesting to purchase hose accessories;
- Gear cleaning back Friday;
- Two in Academy;
- Halogens on backorder;
- Black shells are in;
- Need boots and flashlights;
- CAD suppliers to make presentation on 10/8;
- Mr. Toutouchi will check to see if Matt Greco cleared for physical.

Buildings:

Commissioner Story advised the Board that he will be obtaining a new sign quote from a different company, as he did not feel comfortable with the original company due to unreliability. Commissioner Dunberg suggested keeping/using the existing pillars, and no survey will be needed.

Commissioner Toutouchi discussed purchasing CAD systems for each truck, and he is waiting on a quote.

Commissioner Fogarty advised Chief Haas that he expected his budget tonight. Chief Haas said he was working on it.

Legal: Mr. Braslow advised the Board that they must adopt the OPRA form established by the Government Records Council, and this form must be posted on the District website.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to adopt the Adoptable OPRA Request Form established by the Government Records Council for the use of any person who requests access to a government record held or controlled by the public agency.

Second: Mr. Dunberg

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

There being no further business, Mr. Fogarty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:12pm.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Dunberg, Secretary
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