

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

Regular Meeting

January 28, 2025

Vice Chairman Andrew Story 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 Andrew Story, Michael Fogarty, Phil Engel and Jonathan Dunberg. Board Secretary-Rachel Davis was also present at the meeting. Commissioner John Toutouchi and Board Attorney-Richard Braslow joined the meeting via teleconference.

Motion was made by Mr. Engel to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2025 regular and executive meetings.

Second: Mr. Dunberg

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Fogarty read the January 28, 2025 Treasurer's Report into record.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to transfer \$15,000 from Ocean First Money Market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$11,262.87.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Commissioner Fogarty updated the Board on the adopted budget, and the 2023 audit is complete.

Buildings: Commissioner Engel will research another company for the annual maintenance on the generator. Commissioner Engel wants to put motion sensors in the hallway and will get quotes on Friday for that.

Insurance: Commissioner Dunberg said progress.

Chief's Report: Chief Haas reported the following:

- Gear check and fit test are underway;
- They are in the process of taking medical questionnaires for fit test;
- SCBA refreshers;
- Problems with 95 has been repaired;
- Anti-freeze done;
- Getting prices to get the hoses repaired;
- 6 TICs are in, must get installed.

1st Assistant Chief Santore reported the following:

- Mandatory training is getting taken care of;
- Sent out dates for the right-to-know blood-borne pathogens;
- Academy in March.

Captain Celano reported as follows:

- TICs came in, hooks came in, gear is 90-120 days, hose 9 months, nozzles 3 months; MDT's will be delivered to the installer;
- He would like to put cell phone mounts in the trucks; Commissioner Fogarty approved.
- Commissioner Toutouchi asked Mr. Braslow about the protocol for getting rid of some equipment (radios, pagers, PASS alarms) from the Georgia Road closet. Mr. Braslow referenced the statute for the disposal of personal property and said the items may be given away, sold or destroyed but make sure it is done properly with a resolution, a hold harmless agreement and a specific record of all items. Commissioner Story will work with officers and send Mr. Braslow an email within two weeks.

President Keane reported as follows:

- Added 2 new members to the ranks;
- Good time at the installation dinner;
- Mr. Braslow confirmed that the Fire Contract must be shown to DCA as part of the budget process. The Board discussed a fiscal year time frame for the contract. Commissioner Story advised Mr. Braslow that the Board will try and get it before next meeting.
- Mr. Fogarty wanted it on the record that the Board spent \$12,000 on Class B's 4-5 years ago and advised President Keane that he feels that they shouldn't be purchased due to the fact that they aren't used that often.

Commissioner Toutouchi advised that he will let the Chief know who hasn't taken the harassment class by February 1st and have their access to the building turned off. President Keane requested a list.

Old Business:

Commissioner Toutouchi mentioned that physicals are not mandatory by PEOSHA. He feels that we should still do them every year, except with a different provider, and he asked the Board for their opinion. Commissioner Fogarty is okay with continuing the physicals and agrees that the Board should use a different provider due to the billing problems. Commissioner Story is in favor of the physicals but would rather go to his own doctor. 1st Assistant Chief Santore and Captain Mike Celano expressed their opinions on how important physicals are. Commissioner Story made it clear to the officers that the Board is, in fact, in favor of mandatory physicals. Commissioner Fogarty will research other providers. Commissioner Toutouchi also added that the Board needs the cooperation and support of the officers.

Commissioner Toutouchi addressed the subject of moving the Line Officers and Executive Board into the conference room. A discussion was held between the Board, Chief Haas and President Keane, and the matter was tabled by Vice Chairman Story.

Commissioner Story said everything has been taken care of for the February 15th elections (2-9pm). Mr. Braslow said all notices have been done. Poll workers were hired. There are two people running for the Board of Commissioners--Phil Engel and Anthony Gandolfo.

Commissioner Story said we received approval for the sign, and he will send the contract to Mr. Braslow.

New Business: (none)

Audience: Andy Ollwerther wants a used flag box to be put outside firehouse. He also wants to add a Fire Company flag outside District.

Commissioner Toutouchi said if carwash is not being used on the vehicles, the Board will limit them.

(Board Attorney-Richard Braslow left the meeting at 6:58pm.)

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to go into executive session at 6:58pm for personnel reasons.

Second: Mr. Engel

5-0 all in favor

(back from executive at 7:12pm)

There being no further business, Mr. Fogarty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12pm.

Second: Mr. Dunberg

5-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Dunberg, Secretary

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