

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

Regular Meeting

January 27, 2026

Attorney Braslow called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 6:03pm. He reported that the meeting was posted according to the public meeting act, in the newspapers, the Township Clerk, website, and provided to anyone that requested information at least 48 hours before the meeting. Roll call was taken, and the Commissioners present at the meeting were A.J. Story, Michael Fogarty, and Phil Engel. John Toutounchi and Jonathan Dunberg will be arriving late. Board Attorney, Richard Braslow, joined the meeting via teleconference. Board Secretary, Jaime Story, joined the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Fogarty reported that the budget documentation was submitted to the DCA and it was adopted last week; no questions or concerns.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to transfer \$170,000.00 from Ocean First Money Market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$162,368.93

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 3-0 all in favor

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to approve the regular and executive minutes from the January 13, 2026 meeting and the budget meeting from January 20, 2026

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 3-0 all in favor

Legal: Attorney Braslow reported on the following:

- There is nothing left to due for the upcoming election from him. Mr. Fogarty was copied on the notice to post in public places in a minimum of 10 days prior to the election.
- There is some upcoming legislation coming in NJ that will be of interest to the Board. More details to come.
- He advised the Board that if getting a better rate on LOSAP return, it looked OK to him.

Insurance: N/A

Buildings: Mr. Engel reported the heat in the building needs repaired. He will be calling around for HVAC companies to come out.

Chief's Report: Chief Frank Santore reported the following:

- December 2025 the department answered 73 calls, as well as 497.5 man hours, one work detail, one drill, and 33 extras; Operation Santa was a great success.
- Chief Santore has updated list on harassment class, and members going through SCBA fit test and gear check. It's almost completed with one final class.
- Next month is Right to Know, Blood Borne, and Hazmat tailored to Freehold Township.
- Two radios for chief's cars will be installed by Motorola and MDTs need approval to be added.
- Right To Know training will be mandatory to all members, associates, and Ladies Auxiliary members.
- Lieutenant Bobby Bereheiko fitted four graduates of Fire One class, and the gear rep came in and showed us some items. Bereheiko will provide a list of extra gear.
- Lieutenant Christian Frank is preplanning in the township for building awareness.

President's Report: Vice President Adam Krigel report for President Matt Greco on:

- Two potential associate members will be joining, pending medical and background clearance.
- We have one potential associate member, one junior and two active firefighters going through the application process in February.

Old Business:

- 2026 election information has been mailed out, as well as the certification for fire election.
- Two people have submitted petitions to run for Fire Commissioner – John Toutounchi and Andrew Story.
- The public question and budget question has been sent out to those who need.
- Girl Scouts will be using Georgia Road Fire House for cookie distribution on February 14, 2026.
- Lieutenant Christian Frank and Engineer Jared Evanego conducted inventory of large blue bin and submitted to Mr. Story. Chief Santore can make a decision on what to do with items. Mr. Dunberg does not want to allow members to take surplus due to safety/selling items. Mr. Story will send list to Engineer Adam Krigel to update status.

New Business:

- Mr. Dunberg discussed transferring current LOSAP program from EMPOWER to National Life for a better rate for 10 years at 4.25% rather than 3%. Nothing changes on distribution of funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Dunberg to move from Empower over to National Life for LOSAP program

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

Audience: N/A

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to go into executive session for personnel reasons at 6:37pm.

Second: Mr. Dunberg

Roll call vote: 3-0 all in favor (Mr. Engel stepped out of room)

(back from executive at 6:57pm)

Standard Operation Guidelines (SOGs):

- Chief Santore presented the first version of the SOGs to the Board after making operational changes.
- The Board and the officers present went through some chapters and discussed making some edits.
- Assistant Chief Craig Haas noted that the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing SOG needs to be added to the final version.
- Mr. Story sent the SOG document to Attorney Braslow for review to ensure there are no conflicts with the Fire District #1 Handbook.
- There will be another meeting (or more) to go through additional chapters, make changes, and finalize document.

There being no further business, Mr. Toutounchi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Dunberg
/js