

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

Regular Meeting

August 25, 2026

John Toutouchi called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the flag salute. Roll call was taken. Commissioners present were Michael Fogarty, John Toutouchi, and Jonathan Dunberg (via Zoom). A.J. Story arrived at 7:07 p.m. Phil Engel was absent. Board Secretary Jaime Story was present. Attorney Rich Braslow certified the meeting.

Mr. Fogarty moved to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2026 regular and executive meetings.

Second: Mr. Dunberg

Roll call vote: 3-0, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Fogarty read the August 25, 2026 Treasurer's Report into the record.

Mr. Fogarty moved to transfer \$80,000 from the OceanFirst Money Market account to the OceanFirst checking account and to pay the bills in the amount of \$72,818.59.

Second: Mr. Dunberg

Roll call vote: 3-0, motion carried.

Legal: Legislation changing lease-purchasing terms and notes has not been signed. Mr. Braslow will provide an update when it is signed.

Buildings: The following was reported:

- The HVAC systems were repaired, and the thermostats were removed from the walls for repair.
- Corbin Electric will repair the light ballasts in the Chief's office this week. Mr. Fogarty recommended updating the ballasts in the office. The electrician donated time during the last upgrade at Smithburg. This item should be included in next year's budget.

Insurance: Mr. Dunberg reported the following:

- A check was received for the FCI fire claim for damaged hoses, and confirmation of payment was received for the cleaning of gear.
- It was recommended that Truck 90 be deep cleaned by Servpro; the Board is awaiting a determination on the claim. Mr. Dunberg will ask Eric Schneider to have the hub bearings and outriggers inspected as well.
- The hoses behind Smithburg need to be disposed of. Mr. Dunberg will discuss this with Mr. Story.
- Proof of failed gear that was exposed during the FCI fire will be needed to submit the claim.

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

- July: 140 calls; 674 YTD; 1 work detail; 1 drill; 27 extras; and several serious calls.
- Jared Evanego remains appointed Second Lieutenant, assisting Chief Schneider with truck maintenance and engineering. Members have been cleaning up District, organizing the gear closet, and disposing of old items. Georgia Road will become more active with 79 and 95 stationed there.
- Box alarm plans were approved by the Fire Marshal's Office and are awaiting County programming.
- Mr. Dunberg, Mr. Fogarty, and Chief Santore held a second meeting with E-ONE to review additional apparatus options.

- The Department attended Freehold Township Day and National Night Out and was requested to attend the Freehold Borough fireworks detail on September 4, 2026.
- Some Rescue Weekend items are awaiting Department approval. The contract was sent to Mr. Braslow. Chief Santore will follow up on the cancellation policy if participation is insufficient.
- Chief Santore requested a simplified insurance claim process. Going forward, he will work directly with Mr. Dunberg on insurance claims.
- The Board discussed physical examination clearances. Mr. Toutouchi read a response from the facility administrator explaining that the members who were cleared were reviewed by the provider on an individual basis. A recommendation for follow-up with another physician (for example, regarding a kidney-related finding) does not automatically make someone unfit for duty. These recommendations are made so the member can follow up with their primary care physician for further evaluation, but they are not necessarily disqualifying from a fitness-for-duty standpoint. Regarding one firefighter specifically, his PFT was not failed. The spirometry was inconclusive due to poor test quality/reproducibility, and the provider documented that no pulmonary risk factors were identified. Based on the complete evaluation, the provider determined he was medically cleared. As for the fitness-for-duty questionnaire, I will verify that it is being completed with each evaluation and make sure it is included where required.
- The Board will not donate old radios or equipment to unknown organizations. Mr. Story and Chief Santore will inventory the items and prepare a resolution before any disposition.
- A Freehold Township Police Department Captain met with Chief Santore regarding use of the Georgia Road firehouse. Mr. Dunberg obtained a VFIS-approved hold harmless agreement for the Police Department to sign. The Board will require a certificate of insurance. Mr. Braslow will review the documents and assist with the agreement.
- Fire officers reviewed the proposed 2027 budget, which will be reviewed by the Commissioners.
- Mr. Story reported that the District did not receive the State Farm AED grant. The Board will purchase three AEDs for each firehouse.

President's Report: President Matt Greco reported on the following:

- The Department is awaiting physical examination results for one potential new member.
- President Greco would like to attend future meetings for budget discussions.

Old Business:

- Seven members have not completed physical examinations. Associate members are not required to complete a physical examination unless they request to do so.
- Mr. Fogarty reported that the Board will retain the current copiers and use Freehold Township IT for maintenance.
- Fire Police is no longer active.
- Mr. Dunberg reported that 88 was returned, but the battery is now dead. Mr. Fogarty recommended a solution to start it.

New Business:

- Mr. Fogarty would like to locate all three Home Depot cards; two are accounted for.
- Mr. Story and Mr. Dunberg must sign the certification application for the Local Finance Board, and the Letter of Intent for the SCBA vendor has been approved by Mr. Braslow. The application will be sent to the Local Finance Board to obtain funding at next month's meeting. **The resolution was read again by Mr. Fogarty. Roll call vote: 4-0, resolution adopted.**
- **Mr. Story moved to purchase a new flag for Truck 90 in the amount of \$498.**
Second: Mr. Fogarty
Roll call vote: 4-0, motion carried.

Audience:

- N/A

There being no further business, Mr. Story moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Second: Mr. Toutouchi

Roll call vote: 4-0, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Dunberg

/js

(part I)

ID No. 22-2925118

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES
LOCAL FINANCE BOARD
APPLICATION CERTIFICATION

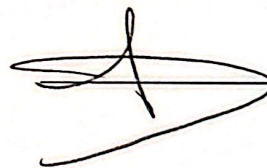
APPLICANT'S
NAME:

THE COMMISSIONERS OF FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 IN THE
TOWNSHIP OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF
MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY

I, AJ Story, Chairman of The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 in the Township of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey DO HEREBY DECLARE:

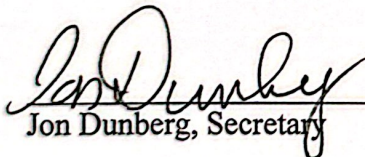
That the documents submitted herewith and the statements contained herein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and

That this application was considered and its submission to the Local Finance Board approved by The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 in the Township of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey on May 26, 2026.



AJ Story, Chairman

ATTEST:


Jon Dunberg, Secretary

Date: May __, 2026

Recorded Vote

AYE

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NO

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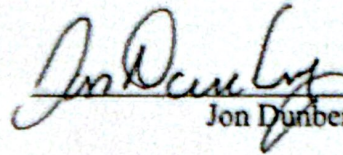
ABSTAIN

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ABSENT

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The foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 in the Township of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey on May 26, 2026.


Jon Dunberg, Secretary