

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

**Regular Meeting**

**December 9, 2025**

Chairman AJ Story called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 6:01pm, and Chief Haas led the flag salute. Roll call was taken, and the Commissioners present at the meeting were A.J. Story, John Toutouchi, Michael Fogarty, Phil Engel, and Jonathan Dunberg. Board Secretary, Jaime Story, joined the meeting. Board Attorneys, Richard and Neil Braslow, joined the meeting via teleconference.

**Motion was made by Mr. Engel to approve the minutes from the November 25, 2025.**

Second: Mr. Dunberg

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

**Treasurer's Report:** Commissioner Fogarty read the December 9, 2025 Treasurer's Report into record.

**Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to transfer \$55,000 from Ocean First Money Market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$50,106.46.**

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

**Legal:** Board Attorney, Mr. Braslow, discussed resolutions for 2026:

1. Approving and Authorizing Execution of Shared Services Agreement with Freehold Township for Information Technology Services.
2. Cancellation of Previous Authorization and Allocation of Funds – cancel remaining \$60k of \$90K budget that was previously approved for electronic signs and allocated toward SCBAs.
3. Authorization of Capital Question for February 2026 ballot – not to exceed \$700k to purchase SCBAs through notes, bonds, or purchasing. This purchase will be paid over four years.
4. Authorizing Budget Transfers and/or Encumbrances.
5. Establishment of a Temporary Budget.
6. Introduction of 2026 Budget.

Mr. Fogarty noted the budget hearing will be January 13, 2026, at 6pm. Mr. Braslow will advertise the hearing. Mr. Fogarty read into record the budget for fiscal year January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.

**Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to vote on all resolutions at once.**

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Mr. Braslow confirmed upcoming Fire District #1 election on February 22, 2026, from 2-9pm. Candidacy petition was sent and deadline is January 23, 2026. All advertisements are being handled by Mr. Braslow and certification form should be completed for Monmouth County. Mr. Story noted Mr. Dunberg will be collecting petitions for February 2026 election.

**Insurance:** N/A

**Buildings:**

- Captain Mike Celano reported that the thermostat was adjusted and wiring fixed.
- Mr. Story noted that the thermostat in the Commissioner's office is not working right.
- Mr. Engel reported a part to the front door is ordered and will be fixed when it comes in.

**Chief's Report:** Chief Craig Haas reported the following:

- This is his last meeting to report, and it's been a pleasure working with everyone.
- For the upcoming resolution, Officers recommend the 30-minute pack instead of 45-minute pack, which will save \$50k.
- Requested name be added to Chief's plaque for last year; Ex-Chief Ralph Reifer will handle.

Captain Mike Celano reported on the following:

- Name plates for lockers are needed and will be ordered.
- He will be taking gear to Pennsylvania this week for cleaning and picking up gear.
- Installation of MDTs is \$5800 for three trucks. Mr. Fogarty asked that the request be made at last December meeting.
- Batteries are needed for saws/chainsaws on Truck #90.
- Valves and reducers are needed for high rise packs, as they were not included in bags.
- Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office requested any reports from MVA on November 10, 2025, due the death of a 9-year-old.

**President's Report:** N/A

**Old Business:**

- LOSAP information was read for those who received their 50 points for the year 2025.

**New Business:**

- Mr. Story asked that all 2026 meetings be pushed back to 7pm and advertised as such.
- Mr. Fogarty wanted to confirm gym membership reimbursement, which is \$80/month.

**Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to change all 2026 meetings from 6pm to 7pm.**

Second: Mr. Toutouchi

Roll call vote: 4-1 in favor (Mr. Engel voted no)

**Audience:** None

**There being no further business, Mr. Fogarty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:37pm.**

Second: Mr. Dunberg

5-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Dunberg

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