

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

Regular Meeting

November 28, 2023

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

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to approve the regular and executive minutes from the November 14, 2023 meeting.

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Fogarty read the November 28, 2023 Treasurer's Report into record.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to transfer \$40,000 from Ocean First Money Market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$38,222.08.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

Legal: Mr. Braslow noted that the Capital Meeting is from 6-9pm to seek voter approved regarding the purchase and installation of the signs. The election is February 17, 2024, and the petition deadline is January 19, 2024.

Fire Company: Chief Craig Haas reported the following:

- The heat in the Chief's office is not working; Mr. Toutouchi advised him to call Commissioner Lengyel, and if he doesn't respond within 24 hours, let the Board know.
- There's an update on the mdt's with the county.
- Waiting on 5 more pagers to come in; Mr. Fogarty said they can purchase another 10.
- Police asked for the department to train the police department on forceable entry. The training will happen at Smithburg. Mr. Fogarty said they need to give us their Certificate of Insurance. There are halligan bars not being used, and the Board said they can surplus and give to the police department.
- PM's taking place on the vehicles.

President Dan Petersen reported progress.

Audience: Firefighter Andy Ollwerther asked for a new spotlight for the flag out front; the whole LED unit needs to be replaced. Mr. Story said someone will look at it this week and make a decision as to what has to be done. Also, the Georgia Road flag light as well.

Old Business: Mr. Fogarty discussed increasing the LOSAP plan for next year. A quote was obtained with a one-year, five-year or ten-year plan, with a payout schedule for each one. With the current busy agenda, we will wait until next year, but the payouts will be retroactive. We can discuss it next year.

Mr. Toutouchi asked Mr. Braslow if it's possible to implement a light-duty policy. Mr. Braslow responded that many entities do not have light duty, but if the Board wants to do it: "Individuals are allowed to engage in any activities related to the fire district which are authorized and permitted by the physician who is treating the individual for whatever injury or illness occurred." Mr. Braslow further confirmed that the Board is not required by law to have a light-duty policy. Mr. Toutouchi noted that the matter was brought up, because someone brought it to the Board's attention that it was required that the Board must provide "light duty." Board discussed the matter, and decided to let the Chief and President make that decision.

New Business: The budget hearing will be on December 26th at 6pm.

Chairman Toutouchi recessed the meeting at 6:28pm and will reconvene the meeting at 9pm.

Chairman John Toutouchi reconvened the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners at 9:01pm, and the Commissioners present at the meeting were John Toutouchi, Andrew Story, Michael Fogarty and Phil Engel.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to introduce the 2024 budget, as per the documents submitted by Board Auditor-Gerard Stankiewicz.

Second: Mr. Engel
4-0 all in favor

There being no further business, Mr. Fogarty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03pm.

Second: Mr. Story
4-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Engel, Secretary
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