

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

**Regular Meeting**

**January 14, 2025**

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, Michael Fogarty, Phil Engel and Jonathan Dunberg. Board Secretary-Rachel Davis was also present at the meeting.

Chairman Toutouchi noted that the public hearing for the budget was still open, and at this time he opened the meeting up to the public.

**Audience:** No one had any comments.

**Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to close the budget hearing at 6:03pm.**

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

**Motion was made by Mr. Engel to approve the minutes from the December 26, 2024 regular and executive meetings.**

Second: Mr. Dunberg

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

**Treasurer's Report:** Commissioner Fogarty read the January 14, 2025 Treasurer's Report into record.

**Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to transfer \$260,000 from Ocean First Money Market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$254,997.84.**

Second: Mr. Engel

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

Commissioner Fogarty advised the Board that he made a bond payment.

Commissioner Fogarty read the budget resolution into record.

**Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to adopt the 2025 Budget Resolution for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.**

Second: Mr. Dunberg

Roll call vote:

Dunberg: Yes

Engel: Yes

Fogarty: Yes

Toutouchi: Yes

Mr. Toutouchi noted that the email address on the resolution was wrong.

**Buildings:** Mr. Engel reported that the electrician was here, and we are getting a price on motion sensors in the hallways. Bay lights were fixed.

**Insurance:** Commissioner Toutouchi noted that there are new laminated workman's compensation cards.

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

- Two candidates in academy;
- 76 is back, but Fire & Safety to look at the sensors;
- Three new members;
- Working on assignments—one assignment is implementation of RedNMX, which Captain Celano is running that and doing a good job.

Captain Celano gave a thorough update on RedNMX, and the Board thanked Captain Celano for taking care of it.

Commissioner Toutouchi addressed the following with the officers:

- **Truck Backing Up Policy:** It was agreed by all that the person in the front is no longer needed.
- **RedNMX CAD Notes:** Captain Celano reported that in the future there will be minimal information, as the sheriff does not want to release that information to non-law enforcement personnel. Chief Haas reported that only those registered with RedNMX will have app privileges.
- **Board of Commissioner/Officer Meeting in 2 weeks:** The Board wants to meet with all officers.
- **Physicals:** The state does not require yearly physicals. Fit test is only thing required, and every officer must have IMS Level 1, and every responder must have IS100, IS200, IS700 and IS800. Minimum recommended is Firefighter 1 Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, and all chief officers IMS Level 2 and HazMat on Scene Incident Commander.
- **Paid Training Courses:** Paid training courses should only be the courses that benefit the district, and must be approved with Commissioner Fogarty.
- **IT Upgrades:** There will be a general shared drive for commissioner and officers. Any outdated computers will be updated. We are changing from a desk top to laptops in order to work remotely and have a portable computer. Tom will come in the next two weeks to redo the wiring. Any IT questions should go to Commissioner Toutouchi.

**Fire Company:** (no one present to represent)

**Old Business:** Commissioner Toutouchi asked the Board if we should do away with physicals. Captain Celano mentioned that PEOSH requires firefighters to be cleared to wear a respirator. A lengthy discussion was held with the officers, and there were objections, so the matter was tabled until the next meeting. Commissioner Fogarty reminded everyone of the pushback the Board would get in the past when the physicals were mandatory, and now the officers present are requesting them.

**New Business:** Commissioner Toutouchi notified that the fire lane signs are gone, and the new "impact signs" are coming in.

The Board will talk at the next meeting about moving the chief's officers into the conference room.

Chief Haas advised the Board that the new engineers are Adam and Carter, and the existing engineers are Bob Urban and Josh Olin. Commissioner Toutouchi asked for a checklist for engineers to check progress and hold accountability. Commissioner Fogarty stressed the importance that the new engineers must be aware that they should be specific when checking the Scott bottles for liability purposes and also be specific on the worksheets as to who checked them out.

Commissioner Toutouchi stressed, again, that if an officer has a conversation with someone about an incident, please document it in an employee file.

The Board thanked Chief Haas for assisting the police with the seatbelt check.

Commissioner Toutouchi noted that the District is willing to pay \$80/month towards a gym membership for six times a month and bills must be submitted every three months. Chief Haas also mentioned alternatives.

**Audience:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief Erik Schneider mentioned 76 will be looked at tomorrow.

**Motion was made by Mr. Engel to go into executive for personnel reasons at 7:08pm.**

Second: Mr. Fogarty

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

(back from executive at 7:16pm)

**There being no further business, Mr. Fogarty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16pm.**

Second: Mr. Engel

4-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Dunberg, Secretary

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