

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

Regular Meeting

April 22, 2025

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

Motion was made by Mr. Engel to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2025 regular and executive meetings.

Second: Mr. Fogarty

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Fogarty read the April 22, 2025 Treasurer's Report into record.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to transfer \$45,000 from Ocean First Money Market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$38,631.92.

Second: Mr. Toutouchi

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Legal: Mr. Braslow updated the Board on the DCA regulations.

Commissioner Story read the Resolution Authorizing Participation in State Firefighter Certification Program into record.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to accept the Resolution Authorizing Participation in State Firefighter Certification Program.

Second: Mr. Toutouchi

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Buildings: Commissioner Engel reported that the generator at Smithburg is getting a new block heater. Drain in parking lot was fixed, and he suggested to have it cleaned out twice a year.

Insurance: Commissioner Dunberg had nothing to report.

Chief's Report: Chief Haas reported the following:

- Met with Innotex representative;
- Air packs are being worked on;
- Need to buy some batteries from Home Depot;
- Troubleshoot chargers and install more TIC's.

Chief Haas advised the Board that Mike Greco will be the new engineer, because Bob had changed his status. Commissioner Story suggested that Chief Haas stay with the four engineers he has now, but let the members know to advise the Chief if anyone is interested in becoming an engineer in the future.

President's Report: President Kevin Keane reported that they added two new members—a Class A firefighter and an Associate member. No reduction in force. Everything else is good.

Old Business:

- **LOSAP:** The Board is thinking long-term and being proactive with a concern about a future paid department affecting LOSAP money. Mr. Braslow's research showed that those who are vested in LOSAP cannot lose the money per DCA, but he will find out more from DCA about the Board's concerns.
- **In-Car Videos:** Commissioner Toutouchi reported that he received quotes from East Coast Emergency Lighting for the in-car videos, so we are moving forward. Three chief's vehicles will be done at the location. All other apparatus will be done here, at District. Once cameras are installed, every driver must sign an agreement.
- **RedNMX:** Captain Celano gave a RedNMX update. The County is still working with the responder app and is working on the issues. Commissioner Story asked if Captain Celano was working with a punch list. He is waiting on a laptop for IamResponding. He's been scanning the active members only.
- **Camera System in Basement:** Commissioner Toutouchi reported that a camera system has been installed at Smithburg in the basement to monitor the flooding.
- **Gear:** Captain Celano reported that five sets of gear are on order; still with Safe-T. Commissioner Story requested that he wait on the next order.
- **Harrisburg:** Commissioner Story will get a headcount for the Harrisburg trip on May 16th and 17th. Board agreed.
- **New Computers:** Commissioner Toutouchi reported that Tom from IT Department will order the computers (laptops and docking stations) for Celano, Santore, Schneider, Christian/Bereheiko share.

- **Physicals:** Commissioner Toutouchi advised that CentraState has removed us for physicals as of May 1st, and he received a quote for a full physical from Access Health (\$235/person under 40; \$305 for over 40). Board discussed at length.

Motion was made by Mr. Toutouchi to move forward with Access Health for yearly physicals for all members.

Second: Mr. Fogarty

Roll call:

Mr. Dunberg: no

Mr. Engel: no

Mr. Fogarty: yes

Mr. Story: yes

Mr. Toutouchi: yes

3-2 motion passed

Commissioner Fogarty added for the record that CentraState made several mistakes, both violating HIPAA, as well as invoiced members in error and then sent to a collection agency.

New Business:

- **Spring Cleaning Landscaping:** Commissioner Story received a \$495 quote from Brothers Landscaping and will move forward to clean up Georgia Road property. No one objected.
- **Wildfire Training:** Commissioner Story informed the Board that on May 3rd ten (10) members will be trained on wildfires, therefore, ten (10) helmets are needed. No one objected.
- **Full Gear Policy:** Chief Haas explained the new gear policy, as follows:
 - When getting on the apparatus, you need to be dressed to go to work. If we are coming back from a call, especially if it's hot and your jacket is off, that is acceptable.
- **Fire Police:** Chief Haas explained that this is a chance for associate members to get involved, help putting cones out, frees up the police department. This is for non-firefighters. They go to the academy and get a state certificate. Board questioned the guidelines for fire police. Captain Celano advised that they will get their state certificates, and there will be no out-of-pocket expense for taxpayers. Commissioner Dunburg confirmed that they would be covered under insurance.

Audience: (none)

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to go into an executive session for personnel reasons at 7:18pm.

Second: Mr. Dunberg

5-0 all in favor

(back from executive session at 7:30pm)

There being no further business, Mr. Fogarty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm.

Second: Mr. Dunberg

5-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Dunberg, Secretary

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