

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

Regular Meeting

April 26, 2022

Chairman John Toutouchi called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 7pm. Chief Haas led the flag salute. Roll call was taken, and the Commissioners present at the meeting were John Toutouchi, Andrew Story, Michael Fogarty, Phil Engel and Stephen Lengyel. Board Attorneys-Richard Braslow and Neil Braslow attended the meeting via teleconference. This meeting was live streamed.

Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Fogarty read the April 26, 2022 Treasurer's Report into record.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to transfer \$12,000 from Ocean First money market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$11,081.90.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Insurance: Mr. Fogarty reviewed various information requested by Hartford Insurance. Commissioner Toutouchi advised everyone to put the proper documents into the binder labeled NJBR Insurance.

Buildings: The Board discussed the architect's contract regarding the capital projects with Mr. Braslow. Commissioner Lengyel and Mr. Braslow confirmed their conversations with the architect, Jack Purvis. After much discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Braslow would reach out to his architectural contacts and report back to the Board by the May 24th meeting.

Mr. Lengyel reported that the generator at Georgia Road would have to get looked at, again, soon. Mr. Braslow had reviewed the Warshauer Generator maintenance contracts and gave his recommendations to the Board. There were two clauses that he found to be objectionable: the clause about limitation along with the indemnification clause. The Board discussed and decided to keep using Warshauer without the maintenance contracts.

Mr. Toutouchi stated the following:

- He is waiting on an itemized quote to do the exterior and interior cameras for Smithburg.
- The sound system in the bay at District is broken. Board decided it's not necessary.

- Computers in Chief's office and Commissioners' office will be updated.

Website: Up to date.

Fire Company: Chief Haas reported that his vehicle is ready to go to East Coast, but he still needs the registration from the Board. Commissioner Story specified that only the Commissioners should be signing off on the work done on the vehicles. Mr. Braslow agreed.

Chief Haas also noted the following:

- 93 has parts on order for the ABS
- Rescue has a new compressor for the diverter
- 78 has a new pressure gauge installed
- The preemption on 67's vehicle has been rewired and new lights put in on side mirrors; scheduled for preventative maintenance in July
- Holmatro tools—Chief Haas asked if the balance of the budgeted money could be used to retrofit. Mr. Braslow approved.
- 90 passed
- 87—still waiting on chargers

Mr. Story suggested that there be a shared computer drive between the Board and the officers in order to keep better records of the truck maintenance. Commissioner Engel has set up an excel sheet and will be in charge of the maintenance log. Commissioner Fogarty also needs to know the details of the vehicle maintenance in order to pay the bills properly.

Mr. Story requested a list of pagers from Chief Haas.

Mr. Toutouchi requested the Chief to remind the drivers to close the bay door.

President Rachel Mitzelman inquired about the cameras at Smithburg. The Board is only obtaining a quote at this time.

Chief Haas commended the 16-1 crew, who was called on the horrible accident across from Perkins, as they did a phenomenal job.

Mr. Fogarty asked about the telephone pole that needs to be taken down. President Mitzelman is aware and taking care of it.

Legal: Mr. Braslow reviewed the Attorney General's opinion on cannabis. Unfortunately, the State of New Jersey has not offered any guidance or clarification on the subject; therefore, Mr. Braslow advised that zero tolerance should remain the Board's policy until there is more clarification. Mr. Braslow will continue to monitor it and keep the Board advised.

Mr. Braslow had researched the questionable wording of the Board's May 7, 2011 Resolution Establishing a Policy of Administrative Leave for Firefighters Charged with Serious Criminal Offenses. His recommendation is to make a motion to the existing resolution adding language to the effect that in addition to the language in the resolution, if you are the subject of a criminal investigation relating to the concept of crime set forth in the resolution, then you will be suspended until the investigation is completed and/or any potential charge against you doesn't come forth. Mr. Braslow will confirm this recommendation formally in an email to the Board.

Mr. Toutouchi asked Mr. Braslow if he had any issues with the Fire Company contract, which he had none. Mr. Fogarty would like three additional items acknowledged in the Fire Company contract:

- Cameras in the bays (Board will maintain the cameras);
- Doors must be secured, especially during hall rentals;
- The bays are to be kept clean.

Mr. Story asked Mr. Braslow his opinion on pool fills. Mr. Braslow does not recommend it due to liability, and it reflects a bad image. It can also be deemed as an improper use of water and sets a precedent.

There being no further business, Mr. Story made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22pm.

Second: Mr. Lengyel
5-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Engel, Secretary
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