

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

**Regular Meeting**

**May 24, 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, Michael Fogarty and Stephen Lengyel. Board Secretary-Rachel Davis was also present at the meeting.

Chairman Toutouchi called for a moment of silence to remember the fallen veterans, firefighters and, most recently, the loss of 14 children and one teacher in the school shootings in Uvalde, Texas.

**Motion was made by Mr. Lengyel to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2022 regular and executive meetings.**

Second: Mr. Fogarty

Roll call vote: 3-0 all in favor

**Treasurer's Report:** Commissioner Fogarty read the May 24, 2022 Treasurer's Report into record.

**Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to transfer \$12,500 from Ocean First money market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$12,148.39.**

Second: Mr. Lengyel

Roll call vote: 3-0 all in favor

**Buildings:** Commissioner Lengyel reported that he has to replace the shoreline in 90.

Mr. Fogarty updated the Board on choosing an architect recommended by the Board's attorney. Two of the architects said the job wasn't big enough for them. Another architect said that his quote was comparable to the Board's previous architect-Jack Purvis' quote and recommended that the Board go with Mr. Purvis, because he knows the building. Board Attorney-Mr. Braslow will be asking Mr. Purvis if he would accept a flat fee instead of a percentage.

Mr. Toutouchi mentioned the following to Chief Haas:

- The door at Georgia Road needs to stay closed, because it is controlled access.
- The kitchen needs to have the food cleaned up, because there are bugs.
- The computers are up to date for all offices.
- He is waiting on the Controlled Access System quotes for Smithburg and will present it to the Fire Company.

**Website:** (up to date)

**Insurance:** Mr. Fogarty will speak with The Hartford Insurance, because they made an adjustment to the plan, and he needs clarification. Also, the preliminary audit had an incorrect roll call for the members, so we need to watch that for next year.

Mr. Toutouchi notified that there was one person on medical leave with the Fire District. He further stated that if anyone is on medical with the Fire District/Fire Company, they are not to participate in any fire activities and cannot do anything on work detail (i.e. lift a chair, move a table, blow leaves, etc.). They are allowed to come into the building, but they are not allowed to participate in any activities, such as parades, drills or anything insured by the District. This was confirmed with the insurance company and attorney, and the policy still stands. Any questions or issues regarding this matter, see a commissioner. Mr. Fogarty added that the same applies to juniors. Mr. Toutouchi requested a list of those on medical from Chief Haas and Vice President Celano. Mr. Fogarty confirmed that the Board does not need, nor want to know the ailments; all they need to know is if an active member is on medical.

Physicals—Mr. Toutouchi will let the Chief know when to pull gear, since the date has been extended due to internal problems with the hospital.

**Legal:** Mr. Toutouchi informed the Board that administrative leave and mileage would be discussed at a later date, when the attorney and at least four Board members are present. Mr. Toutouchi further advised that the Board can move forward with the Shared Services Agreement, as per the Board Attorney, and we can now bring vehicles (non-trucks) to the Township yard for maintenance. Commissioner Engel will be working on that.

**Fire Company:** Chief Haas advised the Board that Neil Timo is on medical. Mr. Toutouchi stated that the only one on medical from the Board's perspective is Andy Ollwerther. Chief Haas further noted that Mike Vota was also on medical. Mr. Toutouchi requested that they verify the medical list and get doctor's notes.

Vice President Mike Celano asked what the policy was for posting on the marquee sign outside the District. The Board discussed and decided that the Fire Company can take care of the sign and keep it updated.

Vice President Celano shared his displeasure about confidential information coming out of executive session on several occasions. Mr. Toutouchi will, once again, talk to the Board Attorney about this matter, and legal action will be taken as per the attorney's recommendation.

**Old Business:** Mr. Fogarty advised that Irvin is working with Commissioner Engel in trying to obtain the registration and possibly have the card reprinted.

**New Business:** Mr. Fogarty advised that Edward's Tires stated that they are no longer in business, so we will have to find another vendor.

Mr. Fogarty read a resolution into record from the Bond Attorney, referencing the DCA meeting in January, where they voted on and passed the bond. Said resolution discusses what the money is being used for and will allow the Board to move forward.

**Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to approve the Resolution Concerning Review of Findings and Recommendations of the Local Finance Board Made at a Meeting of Said Board on January 12, 2022, in Accordance with NJSA 40A:5A-7.**

Second: Mr. Lengyel

Roll call vote: 3-0 all in favor

Mr. Toutouchi read the Shared Services Agreement into record.

**Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to adopt the Shared Services Agreement between the Freehold Township and Board of Fire Commissioners, Freehold Township Fire District 1, effective July 1, 2022.**

Second: Mr. Lengyel

Roll call vote: 3-0 all in favor

Mr. Toutouchi will advise the officers once the Township approves the agreement.

Mr. Toutouchi confirmed the Board's meeting agenda that was recently emailed to the Board members regarding all open matters since February, which must be closed out by the Board within the next two weeks. In the future Mr. Toutouchi would like to table things for only two weeks so that the Board does not have to go back several months.

**Audience:**

- Vice President Mike Celano stated that the Fire Company had suspended a member, and the Board of Commissioners did nothing. He feels that that is unacceptable. He further questioned what the Board's plan was. Commissioner Toutouchi responded that the verbiage must be changed on the current policy, and the Board cannot discuss the matter any further without the Board Attorney present. Commissioner Fogarty added that it was on the Board's agenda to discuss the matter tonight, but the Board Attorney had a family matter and will be here for the next meeting to address.
- Jared Evanego asked if the Board ever consider a digital sign for the marquee outside the District. The Board responded that they looked into it, but it was too much money.

**There being no further business, Mr. Lengyel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43pm.**

Second: Mr. Fogarty

3-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

John Toutouchi, Chairman  
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