

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

Regular Meeting

July 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 and Stephen Lengyel. Board Secretary-Rachel Davis was also present at the meeting. This meeting was live streamed.

Chairman Toutouchi tabled the regular agenda to go into an executive session at 7pm.

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to go into executive session at 7:01pm for personnel reasons.

Second: Mr. Lengyel

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

(back from executive session at 7:28pm)

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to approve the minutes from the June 28, 2022 regular and executive meetings.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

Motion was made by Mr. Story to approve the minutes from the July 12, 2022 regular and executive meetings as well as the July 20, 2022 special and executive meetings.

Second: Mr. Fogarty

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

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

Motion was made by Mr. Fogarty to transfer \$30,000 from Ocean First money market to Ocean First checking and to pay the bills in the amount of \$29,040.92.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 4-0 all in favor

Insurance: Mr. Toutouchi indicated that one person was hurt and cleared. Chief Haas provided the accident report, which was submitted to the insurance company.

Buildings: Commissioner Lengyel reported the following:

- Air conditioner motor needs to be replaced; purchased two portables for now;
- He will have more on building drawings and other work for Georgia Road later on;
- Architect is checking on the specs for the columns to determine structural;
- Bathrooms—might need to take some of storage closet;
- Buildings will be unusable for a couple weeks to a month;
- Corbin Electric will go to Georgia Road to take care of lights;
- Allowance for exterior building maintenance;
- Chief Haas asked about AC in his office.

Website: (up to date)

Fire Company: Chief Haas said his car would probably be back the first week in August. Following the accident on Siloam Road, a counseling team came out and met with responders. Mr. Toutouchi said if something like that is needed in the future, let the Board know so they can contact the insurance company.

Vice President Celano requested to use 86 to tow his personal trailer to go to Jersey City for a pallet of water that was donated to the Fire Company. Board did not object.

Mr. Story will help Chief Haas organize the firehouse expo.

Mr. Fogarty asked about the contract. Vice President said they would send it over to their attorney for review and will form a committee to review the contract. Mr. Fogarty requested that it be finalized by August 23rd.

Old Business:

As previously recommended by Board Attorney-Mr. Braslow, the Board discussed an economical way to do regular background checks. Mr. Story will research prices and also check on including a driver's abstract as well.

Board discussed Criteria for Removal of Eligibility, which was previously recommended by Board Attorney-Mr. Braslow. Board will table the matter until later in the meeting.

Commissioner Story stated that he tried to find information about the repair of the telephone pole but could not find anything and will continue to look into it. Mr. Fogarty indicated that the pole is still there and looks a lot worse than it was when it was hit in December of last year. They are invoicing before doing the work. Need to get report.

New Business:

Commissioner Story addressed Ex-Chief Reifer about the air conditioning in the Chief's office, and said it was being worked on. Mr. Toutouchi noted that the initial call was not ignored but rather, they were waiting for a company to come out and fix it. It should also be noted that the Board does care about the welfare of the members. Mr. Story said they

weren't aware when it wasn't working and advised all members in attendance to call Commissioner Lengyel if it ever happens again.

Audience:

Ex-Chief Ralph Reifer addressed the fact that a couple members were off to the side eating and stated that there should be no eating at a public meeting. The Board members acknowledged Ex-Chief Reifer, and said that he was correct. Commissioner Fogarty also noted that they had a fire call, and that is why they were eating. Chairman Toutouchi stated that the Board of Commissioner meetings should be held to the same standard as a Township Committee meeting.

Old Business (cont'd.):

Chairman Toutouchi continued with the discussion about the Criteria for Removal of Eligibility. Mr. Story thought that the matter should be discussed with the Fire Company President and Vice President. Mr. Toutouchi stressed how important it was to start discussing it on this night due to the fact that the attorney had initially brought it up in April. The matter was tabled. Vice President Celano added that the Fire Company also has their code of conduct and bylaws and shared his concerns that it seems that sometimes the Board of Commissioners acts as the Fire Company's employer and sometimes they are not. Mr. Toutouchi reminded Vice President Celano that the Board of Commissioners is always the Fire Company's employer. Mr. Fogarty added that the Board is also trying to have a good working relationship and not get into the Fire Company's business.

There being no further business, Mr. Lengyel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16pm.

Second: Mr. Story

4-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

John Toutouchi, Chairman
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