

**Board of Fire Commissioners  
Fire District No. 1  
P.O. Box 6903  
Freehold, NJ 07728**

**Regular Meeting**

**June 23, 2015**

Chairman Thomas Caruso called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 7:30pm. The notice was read and District Administrator/Chief Tom Luongo led the flag salute. Roll call was taken. Present were Joseph Colón, Shyamal Joshi, Robert Buscaglia, John Toutouchi and Thomas Caruso. Also in attendance were Mr. Joseph Youssouf and Rachel Davis.

**Motion made by Mr. Joshi to accept May workshop/May executive session minutes.**

Second: Mr. Colón

5-0 all in favor

**Motion made by Mr. Buscaglia to accept May regular meeting minutes.**

Second: Mr. Joshi

5-0 all in favor

**Motion made by Mr. Joshi to accept June workshop minutes.**

Second: Mr. Colón

4-0 (Mr. Buscaglia abstained)

**Correspondence:**

- Letter of thanks from City of Asbury Park Fire Department.

**Treasurer's Report (attached):**

**Motion made by Mr. Joshi to pay monthly bills in the amount of \$171,091.47.**

Second: Mr. Buscaglia

All in favor 5-0

**Insurance:**

- 2 claims
- LOSAP summaries should've been passed out to all. Before July 14<sup>th</sup> everyone needs to note discrepancies to Mr. Timo or Mr. Joshi.
- Mr. Caruso inquired of Mr. Youssouf as to whether a retired volunteer/career firefighter can be in both pension systems. Mr. Youssouf said once he is retired from being an active firefighter, he could no longer receive LOSAP credits. He can collect a pension and receive the LOSAP money that was deposited on his behalf.

**Buildings:**

- Construction: Mr. Joshi brought everyone up to date.
- Georgia Road: generator—could not find a leak. Must keep eye on it, find out where it is leaking.

- Smithburg: generator up, signed agreement with them, will be out to service twice a year; replacement specs end of August.

### **IT:**

- CAD BOX from county installed, waiting on county to program; server and terminals budgeted will go out next month; being backed up, trying to put into cloud, with automatic backup.
- District e-mail switching over to exchange, everyone will be notified.

### **Legal:**

- Mr. Youssouf discussed corrective action plan by auditor.

### **Motion made by Mr. Buscaglia to accept Resolution of Corrective Plan of Action. (attached).**

Second: Mr. Joshi

5-0 all in favor, roll call vote

Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to Gerry Stankiewicz. Board added that suggested improvements have already been implemented.

### **Chief's Report:**

District Administrator/Chief Luongo submitted Chief's Report (attached) and Maintenance Report (attached). Question as to why replacing only inner rear tires on 16-1-79. It was confirmed that Craig said not necessary because the outside tires were just changed within the last six months, and it would be a waste of money to change the outers. Board agreed.

Chief Luongo also added that:

- July 2<sup>nd</sup> Borough fireworks
- July 11<sup>th</sup> Freehold Twp. Family Fun Day (Craig Haas handling)
- Baltimore conference—sending six members, will advise by the end of the week who is attending.

### **President's Report:**

- Charter is complete
- Audit should be complete by next business meeting

### **Website:**

- Up to date

### **Old Business:**

Regarding the Resolution that was adopted in May establishing a part-paid fire company, Chairman Caruso stated that the Board has seen over the last couple weeks an increase in interest in volunteers coming back, however, the Board still has concerns with fire officers and with the administration, but the Board believes that they can explore other options, and if need be, we can go back to the part-paid option. Chairman Caruso asked the Board to make a motion to rescind that resolution while we explore other options and move on from that point.

**Motion made by Mr. Buscaglia to adopt a Resolution Rescinding a Resolution Establishing Part-Paid Fire Department, which was adopted at the May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

Second: Mr. Joshi

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Chairman Caruso further stated that we need the fire company to stay diligent on correcting the issues and stay the course of increasing the membership.

**New Business:**

(none)

**Audience:**

- **Bobby Leone:** Corrective Action Plan—will it be made public?  
A: Next month's minutes—posted online.
- **Gordon Prochnow, Jr.:** Are we going to get a clarification as to what's going on with our officers?  
A: That's a personnel issue. 30-day suspension comes due on Friday. We have a Workshop on Friday. We will let you know whatever we can by law after Friday.
- **Joe Fontana:** I would like to know exactly what is going on. If I can speak for the membership, we're dealing with a dissention of the ranks. Here we are, no one knows what's going on. We've been waiting for 30 days, and now things are up in the air.  
A: It's all legal, personnel issues, privileged information that we can't disclose. Part of our issues that we're dealing with is the morale and ranks of the fire company could have been affected over the last two years under these issues, so we're dealing with a lot of things ourselves, but we're bound by law and we're going to stick to what we can do by law.
- **Pres. Neil Timo:** So, what you're saying is even after Friday's outcome, you're still bound by law, and we may never know what happened?  
A: You'll know the result.  
(Mr. Youssouf): Q: Are you looking for details as to why the suspension occurred?
- **Gordon Prochnow, Jr.:** The fire department has to have a separate outcome as to whether he's going to be a member of the fire department or not. If we don't have details, how are we supposed to know?  
A: When the President and the Vice President are privileged to what they need, then, by advice of council, they'll be able to pass on what they can pass on and we will go from there.
- **Bobby Leone:** Was the suspension due to a conduct issue or safety issue?  
A: It's conduct related.  
Q: Was conduct taken place during a fire scene or during a private (inaudible)?  
A: It was more than one occurrence and it occurred over a period of days, during fire district activity.

- **Mr. Manzella:** I want to be re-commissioned. Can you bring that to a vote?  
A: We'll bring you into executive session.
- **Gordon Prochnow, Jr.:** Tommy's findings have been part of your decision, correct? (in his interviews with all of the members of the department)  
A: His discussions with individuals were private and were not privileged to anybody except for Tom (Luongo) and the person he was speaking to. He's given us some recommendations, yes. That's why we hired him. That's what our consultant does.
- **Bobby Leone:** The corrective action—does that go into effect as of tonight?  
A: It's been effective for a while. Board has hired a CPA auditor, who saw things that do not comply with administrative guidelines from Trenton (ex. signing voucher and things of that nature) and he incorporated them into the Corrective Action Plan. We go through this every year; the audit has to be presented to the DCA.

Board announced that the regular session would be recessed until Friday at 9am.

**Motion made by Mr. Colón to resume executive session.**

Second: Mr. Buscaglia  
5-0 all in favor

(Into executive session at 8:30pm; resumed regular meeting at 9:24pm.)

**Motion made by Mr. Buscaglia to recess meeting and reconvene the special workshop meeting for Friday morning, June 26<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am, at district firehouse.**

Second: Mr. Toutouchi  
5-0 all in favor

(Meeting adjourned at 9:24pm)

Respectfully submitted,

John Toutouchi, Secretary  
/rd  
Attachments