

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

**Regular Meeting**

**November 22, 2016**

Chairman Robert Buscaglia called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 7:30pm. The notice was read and Chief Wayne Prochnow led the flag salute. Chairman Buscaglia asked for a moment of silence for the passing of First Chief and original Commissioner--Henry K. Paasch. Roll call was then taken, present were Joseph Colón, John Toutouchi, Shyamal Joshi, Thomas Caruso and Robert Buscaglia. Also in attendance were Board Attorney-Mr. Joseph Youssef and Rachel Davis.

**Motion made by Mr. Caruso to approve the regular meeting minutes from October 25, 2016.**

Second: Mr. Joshi

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

**Correspondence:**

- Letter from First Assembly of God thanking Georgia Road firehouse along with donation. Mr. Buscaglia gave the check to Kevin Keane, Secretary of the fire company.
- Quarterly minutes of NJ State Assoc. of Fire Districts for anyone to read.
- Text message to Commissioners from President Neil Timo apologizing for his lack of attendance at Board meetings due to his work schedule.

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

Read into record by Mr. Joshi.

**Motion made by Mr. Joshi to pay the monthly bills in the amount of \$94,541.82.**

Second: Mr. Colón

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

First reading of the budget is tonight. Last quarterly check from the town should be next week.

**Insurance:**

- One claim pending.
- E-mail was circulated regarding accident/sickness policy benefits going up.

**Buildings:**

- Generators serviced, batteries and hoses replaced.

- Georgia Road—Accident on back door; Fire & Safety will be fully responsible to take care of it. Windows are plywood over for right now; parts ordered to fix. Do not use the door.
- District—Chief requested light timer to be changed.

**Chief's Report:**

Read into record by Chief Wayne Prochnow (attached) along with 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief's report. Chief noted that there was great feedback from the township about the food stock. Chairman Buscaglia thanked the fire department for being there as well as for what they did for Henry Paasch.

**Maintenance:**

Read into record by 2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief Ken Lucas (attached).

**President's Report:**

Kevin Keane, Secretary of Fire Company, "report in progress."

**Legal:**

Mr. Youssouf read into record the 2017 Budget Resolution for the fiscal year 1/1/2017 – 12/31/2017.

**Resolved that the 2017 Budget be approved and adopted on December 20, 2016, as noted in the resolution, as moved by Mr. Toutouchi.**

Second: Mr. Colón

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Mr. Youssouf will advertise the budget hearing, scheduled for December 20, 2016. Statutory deadlines: Introduction and approval of budget must occur no later than December 20<sup>th</sup>, which was done tonight on first reading. Public hearing must be held not less than 28 days after approval and adoption of the budget, which would be January 24, 2017, but this will be done on December 20, 2016, as the Board is ahead of schedule.

Nominating Petitions for Office of Fire Commissioner must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board 29 days prior to the election, which would be a deadline date of Sunday, January 21, 2017. Mr. Youssouf encourages anyone running for office to get the petition in sooner, than later.

Mr. Youssouf reviewed a case matter in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division—George Peters vs. Silverton Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, where a volunteer fire fighter was expelled from the fire company and claimed his employee's rights were violated. In that case, the Court clearly articulated the fact that being a member of a volunteer fire company does not give you standing to assert a CEPA (Conscientious Employee's Protection Act) claim against the Board of Fire Commissioners or against a volunteer fire company, because membership in a volunteer fire company is a privilege, not a right. Mr. Youssouf addressed this matter publicly because of the misapprehension and concern among the members of the fire company about their rights as individuals.

**IT:**

- Website—up to date.
- Georgia Road—two PC's being worked on as well as wifi; Smithburg—getting quote for phone system expansion.

**Old Business:**

- Class B issues: December 12th, 7pm for modifications.
- Harassment class: Anyone delinquent must be done prior to next meeting.
- Conference room to be locked from now on—not being kept clean.

**New Business:**

(none)

**Audience:**

FF Jack: Who authorized mural? Also, are we getting a third Chief's car?

A: Board authorized mural—it is a district building. No third Chief's car at this time, and it's the Chief's decision with who has what vehicle. Mr. Caruso asked the Chief if there are three Chief officers, could you allocate one of the pickup trucks? Chief said he would like to utilize one of the trucks for a third vehicle.

Paul Nicolosi: Requested information on Indianapolis 2015. Who makes the decisions as to who goes on the trips? What are Commissioners' salaries? Is there anyone else who receives money from the Board?

A: Board will provide the Indianapolis information and notify Mr. Nicolosi when ready; Chief makes decisions; \$8,000/Commissioner, Treasurer gets \$14,000; others on payroll are two secretaries, attorney, auditor, actuary services, physicals, etc.

FF Andy Ollwerther: Requested Board's permission to add flag outside—presented picture.

A: Mr. Caruso said to get a consensus as to who is interested in it and come back to the Board.

**There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Joshi to adjourn at 8:25pm.**

Second: Mr. Colón

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

John Toutouchi, Secretary  
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