

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

Regular Meeting

February 28, 2017

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

Motion made by Mr. Toutouchi to approve the executive meeting minutes from December 20, 2016.

Second: Mr. Joshi

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Motion made by Mr. Toutouchi to approve the regular meeting minutes from January 24, 2017.

Second: Mr. Joshi

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Motion made by Mr. Joshi to approve closed workshop minutes from February 24, 2017.

Second: Mr. Caruso

Roll call vote: 4-0 (Mr. Toutouchi abstained)

Correspondence:

- Letters from insurance renewing policies for this year. Accident sickness benefit is at \$250,000. Trying to get quotes from new company; still no longer eligible. Status quo with insurance. LOSAP list will be certified for next month's meeting.
- E-mail from reporter asking for election results; information was turned over.
- CSS alarm contracts came in.
- Notification for violation of fire inspection for all three houses.
- Chief Prochnow read a thank you letter from Kershaw Commons Resident Association regarding fire/flood on February 11th.

Treasurer's Report

Read into record by Mr. Joshi (attached).

Motion made by Mr. Joshi to pay the bills for accounts payable 2016 in the amount of \$58,568.43.

Second: Mr. Toutouchi

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Motion made by Mr. Joshi to pay the bills for accounts payable 2017 in the amount of \$143,822.01.

Second: Mr. Toutouchi

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Mr. Buscaglia suspended the order of the meeting to introduce Mr. Scott Bonito from SB Certified Training Consultants to explain certification classes that his company can offer to the firefighters at a discount. Mr. Caruso asked Mr. Youssouf if we are able to host classes at the district. Mr. Youssouf said it was allowed as it is emergency service related and as long as he is the only one collecting the fee for the services. Mr. Bonito said if we host the classes, the firefighters could receive the training for free.

Computer:

Website up-to-date.

New antivirus and Word for anyone who needs it—see Joe Colón.

Election Results:

Budget: 317 yes; 321 no

Buscaglia: 183

Fogarty: 138

LaGravenis: 111

Nicolossi: 128

Story: 340

Taylor: 108

Toutouchi: 203

Leone: 2

Amaroso: 1

Buscagli: 1

Mr. Colón thanked everyone who helped with the election. He noted a few complaints received and reminded everyone that during election time we need to be sensitive about being around the firehouse and interacting with the public.

Legal:

Mr. Youssouf discussed the defeated budget procedure and read his February 21st letter written to Mr. Valessi. The Board feels that the budget was conservative. Mr. Youssouf encouraged the members to come out and show their support of the budget. Mr. Buscaglia said the public hearing is Monday, March 6th, but Mr. Youssouf said to check how it is advertised in the paper or on their website.

Mr. Youssouf read a resolution for repairs to the district firehouse.

Motion made by Mr. Joshi to approve the Resolution Authorizing an Emergency Contract for Repairs to the District Headquarters Firehouse.

Second: Mr. Colón

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Mr. Youssouf advised to put the resolution in with December 2016 minutes.

Mr. Youssouf discussed the adopted October 28, 2014 resolution authorizing member participation in the Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing System. It was confirmed that this co-op is still in effect and can be used without another resolution.

March 28th is the reorganization meeting and swearing in the newly elected officers. Mr. Youssouf asked the Board if there are changes or if everything would be kept the same. Board confirmed everything to stay as is.

Buildings:

- Inspections failed on all three buildings—Mr. Buscaglia said he would review reports and see what has to be done;
- March 7th annual fire alarm testing;
- Electrical problems at district fixed yesterday;
- Mr. Buscaglia was not able to meet with tree guy for Georgia Road—still working on it;
- Garbage bags being left out at Georgia Road;
- Cardboard is not allowed in dumpster—break cardboard down and take to township;
- Stove part needed is no longer available;
- Preventative maintenance will be done on bay doors first week in March;
- Mr. Caruso asked what the office at Georgia Road was being used for. Chief said engineers/inventory and door should stay locked;
- Status quo on AC and cameras;
- Mr. Buscaglia stated that nothing would get done on the buildings until the budget gets resolved.

Chief's Report:

Read into record by Chief Prochnow (attached).

Chief Prochnow congratulated new commissioners and expressed his appreciation to Chairman Buscaglia for all the years working together.

Chief said there are two new members (Austin & Daniel). Mr. Joshi said they don't go on insurance and no gear until physicals are back. They are also not to respond to calls until cleared, and they do not have privileges to be in the building (bay) by themselves. Chief also stated that one member—Robert Leone is being removed from rolls. Chief will decide who will be replacing the fire company's representative for fire prevention.

1st Assistant Chief's Report:

1st Assistant Chief Ralph Reifer asked about Smithburg compressor and also requested code violations on Smithburg. Mr. Buscaglia said he would check on compressor matter. Unless we can prove it was an electrical surge, we have to wait on the budget. Board reviewed minor items listed on code violations.

2nd Assistant Chief's Report:

Read into record by 2nd Assistance Chief Ken Lucas.

Reached out to Asbury Park, who was finally given the okay through their insurance. Mr. Buscaglia advised Mr. Lucas that they have until March 20th to set something up, otherwise we want the equipment back.

Chief Lucas said inventory is in progress.

Captain Craig Haas:

Annual gear inspection for gear to be cleaned, maintained and ordered (once budget is resolved). Gear needed: 15 sets.

Maintenance:

Read into record by Lt. Dan Petersen

Board told Lt. Petersen to hold off on equipment repairs and testing until budget is resolved. Chief Prochnow asked who is liable if we don't get the equipment repaired/tested because of the budget? Mr. Youssouf said if the tools don't work, you couldn't do your job. Emergency equipment is critically important. Mr. Colón stressed the importance of supporting the fire department and showing up at the budget hearings.

Lt. Petersen also thanked Mr. Buscaglia for his service and guidance over the years.

President's Report:

President Neil Timo congratulated AJ & John for winning with dignity and also thanked Mr. Buscaglia for his service and wished him luck. It's good to see new members as well as some old members coming back.

Old Business:

(none)

New Business:

Motion made by Mr. Joshi for fire alarm servicing at all three firehouses—Georgia, district and Smithburg, not to exceed \$900/year.

Second: Mr. Toutouchi

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Board approved Mr. Caruso negotiating with Mr. Scott Bonito about utilizing fire hall at district in return for free training.

Audience:

1st Assistant Chief Reifer inquired about:

- Room at Georgia Road—Board confirmed that the room was set up at the request of the Chief. Chief said the room is reserved for engineers and is being used right now for inventory. Why is the Chief responsible for engineers? If engineer gets hurt, can

he sue fire company? Mr. Youssouf said worker's compensation would take care of that.

- What is the reason we bought the snow blowers? Mr. Buscaglia said they were to be used around the firehouse sidewalks and parking lots. At Georgia Road the township doesn't always do the parking lots, and no one wants to shovel. They were purchased to help take care of the buildings. We need to get the trucks out. Mr. Colón also mentioned that the snow blowers should not be used for personal reasons for liability purposes.

Firefighter Santore clarified that the Smithburg house is being staffed periodically during the night hours. Board thanked him.

Chairman Buscaglia said it's been a privilege working with everyone. Mr. Youssouf commended Mr. Buscaglia for all of his years as Commissioner as well as to everyone for volunteering his or her time and effort in the dangerous job of being a firefighter.

Being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Joshi to adjourn the meeting at 8:56pm.

Second: Mr. Colón

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

John Toutouchi, Secretary
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