

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

Regular Meeting

July 25, 2017

Board Chairman Joseph Colón called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 7:32pm, the notice was read and Chief Wayne Prochnow led the flag salute. Those in attendance were Andrew Story, John Toutouchi, Shyamal Joshi, Thomas Caruso and Joseph Colón. Board Attorney-Joseph Youssouf and Board Secretary-Rachel Davis were also present.

Chairman Colón asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for Freehold Township Independent Fire Company Life Member Larry Abate and Corporal Daniel Baldassare, a Marine from Colts Neck, who was killed in a plane crash.

Board presented a framed Resolution to former Commissioner Robert Buscaglia for his many years of outstanding service as a member and officer of Freehold Township Independent Fire Company No. 1.

Treasurer's Report (attached):

Read into record by Mr. Joshi.

Motion made by Mr. Joshi to pay monthly bills for July 2017 in the amount of \$46,360.98.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Motion made by Mr. Joshi to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2017 special workshop and executive meetings.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Motion made by Mr. Joshi to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2017 regular and executive meetings.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Insurance:

- Two claims outstanding—both done; waiting for one more claim.
- Refund from last month was reissued to LOSAP company, which was mistakenly sent to us.

Correspondence:

- E-mail from Dave Case from Opticon. Mr. Caruso responded to him advising that the budget was cut. Mr. Robert Buscaglia updated the Board on what he had done in the matter. Board will work with Chief on getting the trucks updated.

Buildings:

- Leaves were taken care of in gutters.
- Waiting on parking lot lights.

Purchasing:

- Minerva account was set up.
- Chief ordered gear; waiting on some other quotes from Chief.

Officer Reports:

Chief's report was read into record by Chief Wayne Prochnow (attached).

- Three new members; remove Jamal;
- FF1 graduate—Matt Greco; Eric Schneider's paperwork was processed;
- National Night Out August 1st, 5-9pm; Chief requested everyone come out and support.

1st Asst. Chief Ralph Reifer had nothing to report.

2nd Asst. Chief Ken Lucas' report read into record (attached).

Mr. Story commended everyone who was involved for doing a phenomenal job on the radios and for also seeing the importance of it and working right away in getting it done.

Captain Craig Haas reported that he would get working on the gear cleaning and inspecting. Also said that we have one mobile radio from 77—James to get back with price for repair or purchase a new one.

Lieutenant Dan Petersen read his Maintenance Report into record (attached).

Chief Prochnow mentioned that Larry Abate's funeral is Thursday at 10am-12pm, Higgins Funeral Home. Family requested pallbearers.

President's Report:

President Neil Timo stated that the body voted and approved the cut to the fire company contract and asked what the money is earmarked for? Board stated that some of the money would be earmarked for the radio project.

Website:

Up to date.

Legal:

Mr. Youssouf discussed an OPRA and the common law right to access case involving the Township of Lyndhurst, having to do with the expansion of the public's right to know.

Old Business:

- LOSAP summaries of benefits were given to President Timo to be distributed to the members.
- Update on mandatory physicals—deadline has passed, and we still have 12 people who have not taken the physicals.
- Chairman Colón, once again, presented the 2017 Fire Protection Agreement that was tabled at the May meeting. All considerations remain the same as when it was tabled, and there was no further discussion.

Motion made by Mr. Joshi to sign the 2017 Fire Protection Agreement.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

- Mr. Story is still gathering information on the county fuel and will have it complete by next month.
- Board was offered \$30,000 for tank and tractor. Discussion followed, and it was established that maintenance was needed as well as new tires. Board discussed the current usage vs. the maintenance needed in detail with officers and decided to make a counter offer and revisit the matter at the next meeting.

New Business:

- Mr. Caruso suggested an in-house cross training for membership and suggested putting a committee together.

Audience:

Member—Jack Scheurer made reference to the Nottingham Insurance letter that was provided to him at last month's meeting regarding members on medical leave not having access to operational areas and apparatus. Mr. Scheurer had questions for the Board:

- Who is Jennifer Moon and who does she represent? Account Manager for Nottingham Insurance.
- What is the name of the insurance company? Glatfelter Insurance
- What is the penalty if he goes into the bay? Mr. Youssouf stated that there is no force of law but explained that every time there is a claim, the end result is a reevaluation and a premium increase, and the insurance company will have personnel who give advisory opinions. If the Board ignores the advice of the

insurance company and there is a claim, it puts the fire department at risk for losing coverage all together and then having to obtain replacement coverage.

- How does this apply to open house? Mr. Youssef clarified that the previous matter refers to a firefighter out on medical, not a public open house.

Ray Flood read a written statement into the record indicating his disagreement to the Board's concern for the insurance company's recommendations. Mr. Flood would not provide a copy of his statement for the record.

Kevin Lagravis expressed his concern for overshadowing in the department. Board members gave their input as well as other audience members. Chairman Colón explained that we've been through a lot over the last few years and there's a lot of rebuilding that still has to be done. Chairman Colón also appealed to the audience that the talking about one another stop, and we move forward together to do what we're here to do, which is to protect District 1. Chairman Colón, once again, asked that if anyone has an issue with the Commissioners, it must be communicated with the Commissioners directly to resolve the issue.

Motion made by Mr. Joshi to go into executive session at 9:03pm for the purpose of discussing lawyer/client privileged material and personnel matters.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

(Back from executive session at 10:14pm)

Being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Toutouchi to adjourn the meeting at 10:15pm.

Second: Mr. Joshi

5-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

John Toutouchi, Secretary

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