

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

Special Meeting

January 9, 2018

Vice Chairman Thomas Caruso called the special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 6:08pm. Notice was read, and Chief Craig Haas led the flag salute. Roll call was taken. Present at the meeting were Andrew Story, John Toutouchi, Shyamal Joshi and Thomas Caruso. Board Attorney-Joseph Youssouf, District Auditor-Gerard Stankiewicz and Board Secretary-Rachel Davis were also in attendance.

Mr. Youssouf opened up by explaining the purpose of the special meeting as well as the voting procedures and instructed any voters who wish to participate to sign in with their names and addresses. Mr. Youssouf also advised the public that this will be the last year that we will be able to utilize this format of special meeting due to the State requiring poll voting next year, with paper ballots and private voting booths.

(Chairman Colón arrived to the meeting.)

Mr. Youssouf read the question for the voters to consider and then opened the floor for any questions from the Board or the public as to the voting procedures. A question was raised from the audience about the age requirement to vote. Mr. Youssouf said you must be a registered voter and must live in the district in order to vote. Being no further questions from the Board or the public, Mr. Youssouf, again, asked the question:

Shall the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 of Freehold Township be authorized to purchase one new fire chief's command vehicle at a total cost, not to exceed \$65,000, with the cost thereof to be included in the 2018 Budget as a capital expense?

Voice Vote:

Aye-15

Nay-1

Show of Hands Vote:

In favor-15

Opposed-1

Mr. Youssouf asked if that was the Board's consensus of the vote. The Board agreed. Mr. Youssouf then asked if anyone in the audience contested the vote. No one contested. Mr. Youssouf thanked everyone for coming out to vote and declared the special meeting

adjourned and the Resolution passed. At this time the Board proceeded to their amendment hearing. Mr. Stankiewicz explained that this amendment is to comply with the State requirement that we treat the acquisition of the vehicle as a capital item, so it is a part of the special meeting, which approved the acquisition, and now we are amending the budget to set the funds in place. Said amendment was done at the December 26th meeting and properly advertised for this special meeting. Mr. Youssouf then asked the Board to open the hearing to the public for any input.

Motion made by Mr. Joshi to open the hearing on the budget amendment.

Second: Mr. Caruso

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

Mr. Stankiewicz said the amendment makes no difference from the introduced budget to the amended budget. It is a reclassification from an operating expense to a capital expense and will result in no additional tax burden to the taxpayers. This amendment will become a part of the budget, which will become effective when voted upon on February 17, 2018. Mr. Youssouf opened the floor for questions or comments from the Board or the public, and there were none.

Motion made by Mr. Joshi to close the hearing on the budget amendment.

Second: Mr. Story

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

The budget amendment has been approved.

Mr. Youssouf read into record the resolution adopting the 2018 budget.

Motion made by Mr. Story to adopt the 2018 Adopted Budget Resolution.

Second: Mr. Joshi

Roll call vote: 5-0 all in favor

This concludes the special meeting and budget hearing. The next step is to submit the budget to the voters at the February referendum. Mr. Youssouf stated that all petitions for the upcoming Commissioner election needed to be handed in by January 22nd (28 days before the election being held on Feb 17th). He also stated that he received the materials for the voting machine.

Motion made by Mr. Joshi to adjourn the meeting at 6:34pm.

Second: Mr. Caruso

5-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,

John Toutouchi, Secretary
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