

April 14, 2014

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING APRIL 14, 2014

Board Chairman Charles Bauer called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Florence Township Fire District No. 1 to order at 6:30pm. After saluting the flag, we had a moment of silence for Arthur Foulks, Mike Stranko, and Alvin Scully, Jr. The following statement of compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was read by the chairman:

“This meeting is being held in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting has been sent to and published in the Burlington County Times and the Register News. It has also been posted at the township municipal building and on the fire district’s website.”

ROLL CALL: Present – S. Arnold, C. Bauer, B. Mayer, A. Popso, W. Rzomp
Absent – None

Also in attendance were Solicitor Gaskill, Chief Scully, B/C Taylor, FM Richardson, and Captain Peters.

Minutes of the previous meeting: (Open Session) – March 10, 2014

A motion was made by Commissioner Rzomp, and seconded by Commissioner Arnold to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2014 meeting as distributed. Motion carried unanimously.

AUDITORS REPORT: (Rob Inverso)

1. Auditor completed the 2013 audit. There were no recommendations.

SOLICITOR: Robert Gaskill

1. Solicitor Gaskill reported that he has items for closed session.

BATTALION CHIEF/BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT: Kevin Mullen submitted report via email.

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION: Brian Richardson submitted report via email.

CHIEF REPORT: Keith Scully submitted his report via email.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel:

1. Commissioner Rzomp reported they had a meeting scheduled, but due to the events of last two weeks, we have to reschedule the meeting when B/C Mullen gets back.

5-Year Planning:

1. Chief Scully and B/C Mullen progress.

Insurance:

1. Commissioner Arnold reported that he is hearing from the police side of some problems with the insurance plan. B/C Mullen will shop around and price the state health benefits plan in case we need to provide our own insurance for our employees.

Purchases:

1. A list was emailed to the Board.

Policy:

1. Policy 270 is in the process of being updated. It is not ready for adoption yet.

Training: Marc Stranko submitted his report via email.

Truck/Equipment/Building & Grounds: Brian Richardson submitted his report via email.

1. Commissioner Arnold inquired about damaged grill on the pickup truck. FM Richardson reported that damage was from the plow two or three years ago and he has a new grill to replace the old one.
2. Commissioner Rzomp inquired about a wide crack in the floor in the storage portion of the weight room. FM Richardson has not looked at it as of yet and will look at it tonight.
3. FM Richardson reported that he is getting someone out to look at the crack in the front ramp, and that the driveway on the east side of the building has two cracks. He will get quotes to reseal the entire parking lot.

Fire Company Liaison:

1. Commissioner Bauer reported the company inquired if the locks on the flag poles could be removed because it is difficult to locate the keys. FM Richardson stated the keys are available in the vestibule and in a lock box in the electrical room. He added the locks are difficult to work with and we can accommodate the request.
2. Commissioner Bauer inquired about the work on the dumpster gate. FM Richardson reported he just received the parts for it last week. He received new rollers for the dumpster as well as spring-loaded wheels for the gates.

Information Technology Report: Todd Estelow submitted report via email.

1. Commissioner Arnold reported that he and Todd were scheduled to meet but due to the circumstances, they will reschedule to meet before the next regular meeting.

Financial:

1. Commissioner Popso reported financials are looking good.

Radio:

1. FM Richardson reported he received the prices for the new radios.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

1. None

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Commissioner Rzomp reported that we received a thank you letter from Deer Park Fire Company Rehab 13 for our recent donation.
2. Received a letter from Solicitor Gaskill for the audit. Solicitor Gaskill reported they request a letter every year.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

- 1.

Bills List dated April 11, 2014	\$53,656.62
Additional Bills	
Expert Pest Control	\$102.00
Fastenal Company	\$74.93
FEI #114 - Ferguson Enterprises Inc.	\$5.97
Hutchinson Machanical Services	\$190.00
iContact LLC	\$247.81
Majestic Fire Apparel, Inc	\$1,500.00
Motorola Solutions, Inc.	\$423.45
Verison	\$79.03
W.B. Mason Co., Inc.	\$513.17
Sub Total	\$3,136.36
TOTAL	\$56,792.98

A motion was made by Commissioner Mayer and seconded by Commissioner Rzomp to withhold one of the bills (Fire Company) until after closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Commissioner Rzomp spoke with Chief Scully about the Verizon Wireless air cards in which they have been paying \$120.00 a month for at least two years for software we do not have up and running yet. FM Richardson reported that he uses his air card while doing inspections and sits with the clients and updates information. Tomorrow he will be meeting with Burlington Coat Factory and will be using it to get the new business on-line with the new inspection program with the state. So he needs his air card. He is also trying to get every business online with Firehouse so that at a minimum when the chiefs get there, they have the emergency contact information. Commissioner Rzomp asked to look into if it's cheaper for an air card or if it is cheaper to have our pads (ipads/dell pads) with wireless built into them and you don't have to have a card. He will check, but they may have to go with AT&T, not

Verizon.

3. Commissioner Popso inquired about the Public Training Council Class that B/C Mullen and Chief Scully are attending, if it was the leadership course being held in Marlton. Chief Scully reported it is in Evesham in June.
4. A motion was made by Commissioner Mayer and seconded by Commissioner Rzomp to approve to pay the rest of the bills including the PSE&G bill for this month. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT:

1. The following report was submitted by the Treasurer for approval.

Treasurers Report – Period Ending March 31, 2014	
Beginning Cash Balance (3/1/2014)	\$239,071.33
Cash Receipts	\$187,214.51
Cash Disbursements	\$144,303.32
Ending Cash Balance (3/31/2014)	\$311,982.52

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Mayer to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Hiring of EMS Per Diems – Chief Scully reported the candidates went through the practical and written tests. The evaluators met afterwards and suggested two of the three be hired. He will send emails out to them sometime this week and move forward with the process. Last month the Board approved to hire up to six EMS Per diems.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution 2014-14 RESOLUTION SETTING THE BILLING RATES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT.**

Commissioner Bauer asked to hold this resolution until after closed session.

GOOD OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Mayer thanked everyone who came out for both funerals, whether it was cleaning the trucks or representing at the funerals. It was a very nice showing both weeks.
2. Commissioner Popso represented the Fire Department at the services for Arthur Foulks.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold, and seconded by Commissioner Popso to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried unanimously.

1. **Mr. Clinton Boyd:** "In here (a box) I have my Class A uniform. I don't know what to do with it. For three or four years I have been telling officers I don't have a gold badge. I can't wear it without a gold

badge. It's just hanging in my closet. Here it is. If you want it back, you can have it. I don't know what else to do with it. I can't get a gold badge so I can wear it."

Commissioner Mayer: "Your gold badge is in Kevin's office, and your wife was informed of that."

Mr. Boyd: "Well that doesn't do me any good."

Commissioner Mayer: "When I saw her, she had told me about it. I talked to Kevin, and he had them. When he told me, I (*interrupted*)"

Mr. Boyd: "For three or four years I've been mentioning it. The reason I was able to wear it during the anniversary was Carol was good enough to loan me an old 408 badge, I think it was, and that was over two years ago. No, it was two years ago. It was way before then I been saying I can't wear it without a gold badge."

Commissioner Mayer: "I don't know about that. But all I can say your gold badge is now in the office, in Kevin's office and your wife was informed of that a few weeks ago."

Mr. Boyd: "She told me tonight. But then again, how long have they been in Kevin's office?"

Commissioner Mayer: "When I found out about it, I saw your wife because she had come to me about it."

Mr. Boyd: "She informed me tonight about that. That still doesn't change the fact that there were two funerals in the past week I couldn't wear it."

Commissioner Mayer: "Well she knew about it before the funerals."

Mr. Boyd: "It's been years. It's not been (*paused*)"

Commissioner Arnold: "Clint, when you first brought this up when I became commissioner, so it's two years ago. That is when I became commissioner. So, you first told me, and I ask Chief Mullen to order badges to make sure any ex-commissioners had a gold badge for their uniform."

Mr. Boyd: "OK."

Commissioner Arnold: "I apologize for not following up."

Mr. Boyd: "It's been over two years. And also while I'm at the funeral, I'm looking at a lot of ex-chiefs. And I haven't heard them complain, I don't think they have an issue with it. But I'm standing there and I'm looking at it. You've got some ex-chiefs wearing badges that are about this big because they are wearing their ex-chief's badge because they don't have a gold badge for their uniform. I think it's disrespectful."

Commissioner Mayer: "When the forms were put out by Joe Wargo asking everybody what was needed, did anybody put anything on those forms?"

Mr. Boyd: "That, I can't tell you. I know my wife put on there a gold badge for me. But that was, again, that was probably a couple years ago, at least a year."

Commissioner Mayer: "No, no. We just did it."

Commissioner Arnold: "No, we just sent a form out in November."

Mr. Boyd: "That was put on there. I don't know if they put it on there or not. Or whether they request it, you can see it. And the fact that it is left that way is disrespectful. To that's chiefs, in my opinion. And nobody said that to me. In my opinion, it's disrespect."

Commissioner Arnold: "OK. I understand your opinion. I have my own opinion because I saw the same thing, but."

Mr. Boyd: "My opinion some of them are like very small badges."

Commissioner Arnold: "And we will work to correct that. There is only so much we can do with the information that we have. And again, a form was sent out in November by email, whatever you need, and it was for all uniforms. And for all uniforms, whether it was pants, badges, buttons, whatever it was, it covered everything. And how much Captain Wargo got back, I have no clue. But I know the response wasn't great."

Commissioner Mayer: "And actually it was done twice. And the second time, we even put copies of the form in the radio room in case anybody did not see the email, because I was here the night we did it."

Mr. Boyd: "And how much of that equipment has been purchased, to date?"

Commissioner Arnold: "None, which is what we are going to..."

Mr. Boyd: "*(unable to understand)* and discuss."

Commissioner Mayer: "We don't know now because I know badges were purchased because I know Clint's was. Because again, I know it has been sitting in Kevin's office for a few weeks. So what else is done, I don't know. So we can't say 'none' until we can speak with Kevin."

Commissioner Arnold: “And right now he’s on an island.”

Mr. Boyd: “OK.”

Commissioner Popso: “As far as your Class A itself, fits? Other than the regalia, everything else fits?”

Mr. Boyd: “Everything fits just fine. I’m just missing a badge.”

Commissioner Popso: “OK.”

Mr. Boyd: “Because for years I had to use my commissioner’s badge. Since I haven’t been a commissioner, I haven’t had a badge. And I’ve said that numerous occasions. And every time I say it, I get blown off. Alright.”

Commissioner Arnold: “You did not get blown off. When you said it to me, Clinton, I went right to Chief Mullen and asked him to order them. I apologize for not following up. Now that’s the second time I’ve apologized.

Mr. Boyd: “OK. And I appreciate that and I accept your apology.”

Commissioner Arnold: “OK, we will look into to it and try to (*interrupted*)”

Mr. Boyd: “I’m just trying to relay to you the impression that I got.”

Commissioner Arnold: “I understand the impression.”

Mr. Boyd: “Not from specifically from you, but in general.”

Commissioner Mayer: “OK, but again, your badge has been sitting in Kevin’s office which your wife has been aware of for a few weeks, prior to the two funerals.”

Mr. Boyd: “OK. Well, again, how long’s it been sitting there?”

Commissioner Mayer: “I don’t know.”

Commissioner Arnold: “We can’t answer that question.

Commissioner Mayer: “But it’s there.”

Commissioner Arnold: “And you can ask it over and over again, but none of the five of us on this Board, nor the officers that are out in the audience can know that because Chief Mullen had them. So until I can ask him, (*interrupted*)”

(*Multiple people speaking.*)

Mr. Boyd: “I accept that. I accept that.”

Commissioner Arnold: “So just hold on to your uniform and we will get your badge for you. I’d appreciate it if you would hold your uniform. I didn’t wear mine to either funeral either because I lost my hat. And I refuse to wear it for the same reason you did. I refuse to wear it half way.”

Mr. Boyd: “I’m not going to wear it half way, right.”

Commissioner Arnold: “I agree with you. That’s a choice that I made. That’s a choice that you made. I totally understand that.”

Mr. Boyd: “Alright.”

Commissioner Popso: “We’ll make sure before, you know, we’ll get you that badge Clinton. And ah, like I said, we appreciate you. We would like you to keep the uniform. We want you to wear it.”

Mr. Boyd: “And like I said, if it had been six months, fine. But this has been going on and on and on. And it’s finally to a point where (*interrupted*)”

Commissioner Popso: “At this point, we can’t give you any definite answers, but the best thing to do is to tell you that there is a badge for you. It’s here, and we are going to make sure that we get it to you tonight. And ah, you know, once again I speak on Scott’s behalf, once again we apologize for any inconvenience or any disheartening feelings that you had. But, you know, this is where we’re at at this point and we can’t go backwards. But we’ll get that for you and that should clear everything up.”

Mr. Boyd: “Thank you.”

Commissioner Popso: “No problem. Thank you.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Is there anyone else?”

2. **Commissioner Bauer:** “I think I will speak as a (*interrupted by a cell phone*). I’ll say this, I understand that you people, you know what is supposed to go on these uniforms. All I know is the civilians in this town have commended everybody on that presentation that the Fire Company had at both of the funerals. They just said that you people were perfect. So I don’t think that the general public missed a uniform that wasn’t perfect, they saw it and thought everything was great. Ok, so that’s just the public, the civilians talking. That’s all I have to say.”

Commissioner Arnold: “Just for the record, that is the only reason I was not in uniform.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Alright, nobody else? Need a motion to close the public portion.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold, and seconded by Commissioner Popso to close the public portion of the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold, and seconded by Commissioner Mayer to go into the closed session to discuss Fire Company contract, personnel, and also the EMS Billing. Motion carried unanimously. The Board went into closed session at 18:19 hours.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mayer and seconded by Commissioner Rzomp to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously at 20:17 hours.

BACK TO NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution 2014-14 RESOLUTION SETTING THE BILLING RATES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Mayer and seconded by Commissioner Rzomp to accept resolution 2014-14. Roll call vote: Commissioner Arnold – did not return from closed session; Commissioner Bauer – Yes; Commissioner Mayer – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Yes; and Commissioner Rzomp – Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

BACK TO PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Mayer and seconded by Commissioner Rzomp to hold the check for the Florence Township Fire Company until negotiations are complete.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Commissioner Mayer and seconded by Commissioner Rzomp to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Clinton Boyd asked if that was adjournment, that he didn't hear it. Commissioners Mayer and Rzomp both replied “yes”. Mr. Boyd pointed out a point of order that after closed session you have to give the public an opportunity to speak again and confirmed that with the Solicitor. Solicitor Gaskill agreed.

REOPENING OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

A motion was made by Commissioner Mayer and seconded by Commissioner Rzomp to reopen the meeting. Motion carried unanimously at 20:20 hours.

Mr. Boyd: “Just a point of order, I apologize for not bringing this up before, but I didn't get here until after the meeting started. In the agenda, tonight you adopted a resolution; you approved a treasurer's report, and a bill list. I don't see were there's any copies of any of those available to the public.”

Commissioner Mayer: “The resolution was the first reading. It wasn't an adoption.”

Mr. Boyd: “Alright. There should still be copies available to the public. Point of order.”

Carolyn Taylor: “I can get you any copies that you wish. I keep my set here and I can make copies of that.”

Mr. Boyd: “Point of order, they should be available.”

Ms. Taylor: “OK.”

Mr. Boyd: “On the table, prior to the start of the meeting.”

Ms. Taylor: “OK.”

Mr. Boyd: “That’s my only contention.”

Ms. Taylor: “Not a problem.”

Mr. Boyd: “OK. Thank you.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Rzomp, and seconded by Commissioner Mayer to close the meeting to the public. Motion carried unanimously.

RE-ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Commissioner Mayer and seconded by Commissioner Rzomp to re-adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 20:23 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Taylor