

October 24, 2016

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING OCTOBER 24, 2016

Board Chairman Robert Schoen called the workshop meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Florence Township Fire District No. 1 to order at 7:00 pm. After saluting the flag, 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 Trenton Times. It has also been posted at the Township Municipal building and on the Fire District’s website.”

ROLL CALL: Present – C. Bauer, W. Berry, A. Popso, R. Schoen

Absent – J. Fratinardo

Also in attendance was Chief Kevin Mullen, EMS Chief Carolyn Taylor, Albert A. Jacoby

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Popso to pay all bills. Commissioner Berry abstained from the Verizon bill. Motion carried 3-0-1.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Approve Fire Company Contract for 2016.**

The contract is exactly the same as last year’s.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Berry to approve the Fire Company Contract for 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Discuss the 2017 Budget**

Chief Mullen sent the Board a draft budget for input from the Board. The two main items that were discussed that really changed were the hiring of another firefighter and the purchase of the new ambulance. The hiring of another firefighter would cause a referendum and put us over the cap, but would put two firefighters on a shift. This would cause a tax rate increase of .007 cents, so for every \$100,000 of value, it would be \$7.00. The \$83,000 includes salary, benefits, clothing allowance. The purchase of the new ambulance in which was originally put in the budget as a \$210,000 cash payment. That, because it is capital, is excluded from the cap. It was approved in a previous referendum, and they can’t approve it twice. Chief Mullen had checked with DCA and if cash is paid for the ambulance, it does not count towards our cap because it is a capital item. However, it will still cause a tax increase of (rounded) 1.7 cents. Between the two items, the tax rate would go up almost 2.5 cents, actually, 2.4 cents. Chief Mullen also reached out to Phoenix Advisors who handle our bond financing and leasing of the engine. If we follow through with the financing of the 2017 ambulance, another in 2019, we will have financing for five (5) different projects. We would have financing for the bonds for the building, financing for the SCBA, financing for the firetruck,

financing for ambulance #1 in 2017, and ambulance #2 in 2019. They will check and see if it is possible to “bundle” some of that financing, one lease into another lease, so that we are making one payment vs. three payments. The bonds would be kept separate. They are going to work on a financing package for us. Discussion continued on fund balance and tax increases. Commissioner Berry also indicated that the Municipality could possibly “ earmark” some money for a project to help fund it. Chief Mullen thanked the Board for their input so that he can now move forward and start to finalize the budget.

GOOD OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Popso thanked the Board and everyone involved with the memorial out front. He appreciates everything that everyone has been doing, Mr. Jacoby, Adam Schoen, Brian Richardson, Carol Taylor. It’s just nice to see that everybody is putting in whatever they can, when they can. It’s nice. He wished the product would come faster than he can get it. The goal is to have the exterior portion completed before winter. Mr. Jacoby will be doing some electrical conduit work and then back fill the trench. Thank you to everyone.
2. Commissioner Bauer asked about the fire department sign at the end of the road if anything was happening to it. Chief Mullen reported that it the Fire Company is looking into an electronic sign that can be changed and controlled from the building. They had pictures and options to choose from. Mr. Jacoby supplied pictures to Commissioner Bauer. Commissioner Bauer suggested that maybe the District go in on it and be able to post fire district items. Mr. Jacoby also stated that OEM may be contributing also. The conduit is already in place.
3. Commissioner Popso brought up a suggestion about doing a brick for our members when they pass, and having them installed down at the memorial. This is a Fire Company project that John Dulo handles, but bricks are sold and placed there.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

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

Mr. Albert A. Jacoby: “We were in Bordentown last week for a cover assignment at Derby. They have a truck that they just replaced, it’s a utility truck. The Ford 250 or 350, with an extended cab, 4-door cab, with a utility body with a lift gate. I thought it would be kind of good for the fire police to have. So, you know, maybe you can look into that, make a deal with them?”

Multiple people speaking.

Chief Mullen: “I will look into it.”

Mr. Jacoby: “But I’m not sure, you know, I don’t know all of the particulars. Nobody was really there.”

Commissioner Bauer: “That’s a really nice truck. It sat inside its whole life.”

Chief Mullen: “I will look into it and see what they want for it.”

Multiple people speaking.

Commissioner Bauer: “Yeah, before they put it up for sale.”

Mr. Albert A. Jacoby: “Maybe we can give them something, the Maxim or something.”

Everyone laughing.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Berry to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 19:35 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn H. Taylor