

December 12, 2016

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 12, 2016

Board Chairman Robert Schoen called the regular 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 – Charles Bauer, John Fratinardo and Robert Schoen

Absent – William Berry and Andrew Popso

Also in attendance were Chief Mullen, D/C Scully, FM B. Richardson, EMS Chief C. Taylor, IT C. T. Estelow, Lt. R. Reillo, Solicitor R. Gaskill, and FP H. Ryan

MINUTES

1. Minutes of previous meeting – Open Sessions October 24, 2016 and November 14, 2016
A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the minutes of open sessions October 24, 2016 and November 14, 2016 meetings.
Motion carried unanimously.

AUDITORS REPORT: (Rob Inverso)

1. None.

SOLICITOR: Robert Gaskill

1. Solicitor Gaskill reported only the SOPs on the agenda later in the meeting.

CHIEF’S REPORT: Chief Mullen submitted his report to the Board via email.

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION/MAINTENANCE: FM Richardson submitted his report via email.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel: None.

5-Year Planning:

1. A meeting will be held by the end of the month.

Building and Grounds:

1. None.

Insurance:

1. None.

Purchases:

1. A list was emailed to the Board.

Policy:

1. Section 1100 EMS is still under review by EMS Chief Taylor. They are almost completed.

Fire Company Liaison:

1. Commissioner Bauer inquired if there was anything more about the sign. Commissioner Schoen has not heard anything more, and Chief Mullen reported that it is still ongoing.

Radio:

1. None.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

1. Chief Mullen reported he received one application tonight. Alyssa K. Potts for Jr. Member. A motion was made by Commissioner Bayer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to move it along its normal course. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. None.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Bauer to pay all the bills with the exception of PSE&G and Verizon bills. Motion carried unanimously.
2. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Schoen to pay the PSE&G bill. Commissioner Bauer abstained. Motion carried 2-0-1.
3. A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to pay the Verizon bill. Motion carried unanimously.
4. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Bauer to pay the BB&T bill. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT:

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to approve the treasurer's report as received. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 2017 Budget – Chief Mullen gave an overview reporting he reviewed all of the line items as from the October meeting. He found it extremely difficult to find enough money to cover the amount that was in a referendum. He put it back in the budget as a referendum to hire the one firefighter. He also adjusted the cash payment of the ambulance and put a \$25,000.00 down payment in the budget. He is still working with the Township to see if some of the pilot money can be used to offset the cost of that ambulance.
2. Commissioner Bauer requested if there is any way he could get a list of the calls without violating any of the HIPAA rules for these new buildings that we have going all the way

back to the rescue we had and things like that. Through Iamresponding, he is aware that we are getting quite a few calls, in his opinion, at the new warehouse next door. If we are asking for help, we need to have a list, to show a reason why we are asking for help. Everyone is complaining about traffic and the Township does something with the traffic. If crews are at that warehouse and a second rig comes in and we're not responding. If he has a list, with the Chairman's approval, he will help out. It's like asking for a raise...you have to say why you want the raise. Chief Mullen will talk to Richard Brook and get a list of all the pilot programs that are out there, and then from there he will have a list of all the businesses, and the other part should not be too difficult.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Adopt Resolution 2016-28 – Amending the 2016 Budget
A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adopt Resolution 2016-28 – Amending the 2016 Budget. Roll call vote: Commissioner Bauer: Y; Commissioner Berry: Absent; Commissioner Fratinardo: Y; Commissioner Popso: Absent; Commissioner Schoen: Y. Motion carried 3-0.
2. Adopt Resolution 2016-29 – Authorizing a Property Tax Cap Levy Referendum on February 18, 2017.
A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adopt Resolution 2016-29 – Authorizing a Property Tax Cap Levy Referendum on February 18, 2017. Roll call vote: Commissioner Bauer: Y; Commissioner Berry: Absent; Commissioner Fratinardo: Y; Commissioner Popso: Absent; Commissioner Schoen: Y. Motion carried 3-0.
3. Adopt Resolution 2016-30 – Adopt 2017 Budget
A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Bauer to adopt Resolution 2016-30 – Adopt 2017 Budget. Roll call vote: Commissioner Bauer: Y; Commissioner Berry: Absent; Commissioner Fratinardo: Y; Commissioner Popso: Absent; Commissioner Schoen: Y. Motion carried 3-0.
4. Approve Fire Officers for 2017 – Captain Joseph Wargo, Lieutenant Kenneth Cunningham
A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the Fire Officers for 2017. Roll call vote: Commissioner Bauer: Y; Commissioner Berry: Absent; Commissioner Fratinardo: Y; Commissioner Popso: Absent; Commissioner Schoen: Y. Motion carried 3-0.
5. Approve EMS Officers for 2017 – Captain Kara Ekelburg and Lieutenant Robert Reillo, Jr.
A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to approve the EMS Officers for 2017. Roll call vote: Commissioner Bauer: Y; Commissioner Berry: Absent; Commissioner Fratinardo: Y; Commissioner Popso: Absent; Commissioner Schoen: Y. Motion carried 3-0.
6. Approve Officer's pay for 2016 – Same pay as last year. Chief Mullen reported that the EMS officers started a little later this year, so their pay got prorated for the months they worked.
A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to approve the Officer's pay for 2016. Roll Call vote: Commissioner Bauer: Y; Commissioner Berry: Absent; Commissioner Fratinardo: Y; Commissioner Popso: Absent; Commissioner Schoen: Y. Motion carried 3-0.
7. Adopt updated Policy 710 and delete Policy 285 – 1st Reading
The public portion will be at the second reading. There was an oversight when they did the originals, and somehow it just didn't get in there.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adopt updated Policy 270 and delete Policy 285, first reading. Roll call vote: Commissioner Bauer: Y; Commissioner Berry: Absent; Commissioner Fratinardo: Y; Commissioner Popso: Absent; Commissioner Schoen: Y. Motion carried 3-0.

GOOD OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Bauer inquired if the snow plow is ready. Chief Mullen reported "It is."
2. Chief Mullen received an email from Erin Glassmeier about Firefighter Eric Fyler going above and beyond at the Cub Scout meeting on October 25th, 2016. He was incredibly involved and eager to explain what he does for the community as a Firefighter/EMT. He allowed the boys to touch and try on his equipment and answered many of their questions. She is grateful for his dedication to the community.
3. Chief Mullen received an email from Barbara Mayer about Carolyn Taylor and Jeffery Steere thanking both of them for their assistance on an EMS call. "The teacher, nurse, mom, and I were appreciative of your help in the situation and the guidance you gave mom prior to heading to the hospital."
4. Chief Mullen said to check out the Burlington County Times for an article today that talks about moving the Fire District elections to November. It came out of the Assembly Judicial Committee voted 7-0 to advance the bill. It would eliminate the annual vote if your budget is cap compliant. It would also eliminate the requirement for fire districts to hold a voter referendum on capital spending if the spending is below \$5,000,000.00, and two-thirds of the Commissioners vote yes. This would be a huge change.
5. Commissioner Bauer stated he received a thank you on our parade and about how our Fire Police were set up along with other Fire Police districts and helping older people to cross the street. Thanks to whoever coordinated the fire police for the parade. Good job.
6. Mr. Albert A. Jacoby explained the further work on the hexagon out front. They couldn't get the union guys to come back because they were busy finishing up jobs before the weather changed. They talked about coming back in the spring. So they got a price to finish the masonry portion of it from a gentleman in Ewing. He did the stucco work, put a wire scratch coat on, then he finished the stucco and put the blue stone cap on top. The fire company issued a check in the amount of \$4,800.00 to complete it. Commissioner Schoen stated it would be nice if the Commission would pay half that cost because you got the job done now without having to drag it out till spring.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to pay half of the \$4800.00 bill for the masonry. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

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

Deputy Chief Keith Scully: "XXX West Third Street, Florence. This past month I was a little disturbed by one of the commissioners. Fortunately he is not here to say anything to him, but apparently some closed door stuff got out not within here, but to another organization, and my name was brought up and knew nothing about it. So something needs to be done. I had talked to Chairman Schoen, Chief Mullen. So, I knew nothing about what came out of closed session until I was told what happened at this other organization. So, that's all I have."

Commissioner Bauer: “I haven’t been in a closed session for a long time. You may have been. Was I absent?”

10 **Commissioner Fratinardo:** “No.”

Chief Mullen: “Yes. You weren’t there.” *Numerous people speaking.*

Commissioner Bauer: “Ok. That lets me off the hook Keith.”

D/C Scully: “He’s not here so.”

15 **Commissioner Bauer:** “Should that be in a formal complaint should be filed? Or what do you think?”

D/C Scully: “Well it’s closed door stuff. That’s your business. But, I don’t know why my name was brought into it. I knew nothing about what was happening in closed session.”

Solicitor Gaskill: “My suggestion is if you want to inquiry Keith, you got to set forth things in writing.”

20 **D/C Scully:** “Well I already spoke to the Chairman about it, and the Chief.”

Solicitor Gaskill: “Things always start with... If you have a complaint, put it in writing, and put your name to it. Then you can kick it up the line, and people have something to deal with. I think that’s just appropriate. It doesn’t have to be pages. Succinctly what it is that you have a problem with...”

25 **D/C Scully:** “Not a problem.”

Solicitor Gaskill: “...Put your name to it, and kick it up the line to the chief. And if it needs to be kicked up the line, you’ll do that.”

D/C Scully: “It’ll be done before I go to Florida.”

Solicitor Gaskill: “There you go.”

30 **Commissioner Schoen:** “Anyone else?”

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

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 19:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Taylor