

February 13, 2017

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 13, 2017

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, Andrew Popso and Robert Schoen

Absent – William Berry

Also in attendance were Chief Mullen, B/C Taylor, EMS Chief C. Taylor, Captain J. Wargo, IT T. Estelow, and Solicitor R. Gaskill.

MINUTES

1. Minutes of the previous meetings – Open Session January 9, 2017; Closed Sessions September 12, 2016, November 14, 2016, and January 9, 2017.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Popso to approve the minutes of the Open Session January 9, 2017; Closed Sessions September 12, 2016, November 14, 2016, and January 9, 2017 meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

AUDITORS REPORT: (Rob Inverso)

1. None.

SOLICITOR: Robert Gaskill

1. Solicitor Gaskill reported his items are for Closed Session.

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 was held on December 29th, 2016. The next meeting will be in the Spring.

Building and Grounds:

1. Commissioner Popso reported that Mr. Jacoby pointed him in the direction of E.P. Henry and “Euroscaping”. He has forms to fill out to advise what we are looking for. Progress.

2. One sink in the men's room is broken and is in the process of being fixed.

Insurance:

1. Chief Mullen reported that two (2) Worker's Comp claims were filed.

Purchases:

1. A list was emailed to the Board.

Policy:

1. Section 1100 EMS has been completed by EMS Chief Taylor.

Fire Company Liaison:

1. Nothing to report.

Radio:

1. Chief Mullen reported the County is meeting and discussing the new radio system. Unofficially, they are trying to go with a one-for-one radio swap. They also have to add and modify communication towers throughout the county. Target date will be in 2019. Unknown anything about the pagers as they were not discussed. The last update to the radio system cost \$40,000,000.00. An early estimate now is \$30,000,000.00. Yes, it is going to be cheaper because of technology.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

1. Shawne DeCristafaro – Active Member
A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinaro to approve and move forward in its normal way. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Chief Mullen report he did publish in the legal ads the RFP for the District Solicitor and the District Auditor with a date of March 7, 2017 for opening of proposals.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

OLD BUSINESS:**1. HEARING – ADOPT POLICY 225 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND POLICY 270 INCENTIVE PLAN – 2nd Reading**

- a. A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to close the meeting to the public. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Popso to adopt POLICY 225 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS and POLICY 270 INCENTIVE PLAN. Roll call vote: Commissioner Bauer: Yes; Commissioner Berry: Absent; Commissioner Fratinardo: Yes; Commissioner Popso: Yes; and Commissioner Schoen: Yes. Motion carried 4:0.

2. 2017 Election

Chief Mullen reported everything that needs to be published through legal ads has been published. He also posted that same notice at the Township, Johnson's, Florence Hardware, Roebing Market, and both Post Offices, and the Township building. The sign has been updated as well. The voting machine and pole workers are already to go. The pole workers are on the Florence Township's Pole worker list. He will pick up the voter's list tomorrow or Wednesday.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve 5-year sprinkler test – not to exceed \$1,700.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to approve a 5-year sprinkler test not to exceed \$1,700.00. Motion carried unanimously.

GOOD OF THE BOARD:

1. Chief Mullen sent an article to the Board from the Burlington County Times about the Senate up in the State Legislature kicked it out of committee to moving fire district elections to November. So both parts of the legislature have kicked it out of committee. So trying to make it similar to the school districts where our election will be held in November with the general election; If the budget is under the cap, it does not need to be voted on; And any capital project under \$5,000,000.00 or less needs two-thirds of the Commissioner's votes, and does not need voter approval. There is some momentum going on now because it is coming out of committee. There may actually be a vote on it this year.

For the record, Commissioner Bauer does not feel that it is a good idea that they move district elections to that time of the year. "Because people who really care about the District come out and vote whether it be for a budget or for a special question on the ballot. And when it goes onto the general election, there are a lot of "no" votes out there that can go along with that. But that's my opinion."

Commissioner Fratinardo replied "The only thing is you don't get budgets through without having to go for a vote as long as it's not special questions. The good part about it is it like the school board, it's still nonpartisan the way it is set up."

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

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

Hearing none,

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

CLOSED SESSION:**1. Adopt RESOLUTION 2017-05 – CLOSED SESSION**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adopt **RESOLUTION 2017-05 – CLOSED SESSION**. Roll call vote: Commissioner Bauer: Yes; Commissioner Berry: Absent; Commissioner Fratinardo: Yes; Commissioner Popso: Yes; and Commissioner Schoen: Yes. Motion carried 4:0.

The public session was closed at 19:17 hours for personnel business.

2. A motion was made by commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to come out of closed session. Closed session was adjourned at 21:55 hours.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 21:56 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Taylor