

April 10, 2017

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING APRIL 10, 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, William Berry, John Fratinardo, and Robert Schoen

Absent – Andrew Popso

Also in attendance were Chief K. Mullen, FM B. Richardson, B/C Taylor, Captain Wargo, IT Estelow, EMS Chief C. Taylor, Solicitor R. Gaskill, Chaplin Gary Richardson, and A. A. Jacoby.

MINUTES

1. Minutes of the previous meetings – Open Session March 13, 2017
A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to approve the minutes of the open session of the March 13, 2017 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY:

- Gary Richardson was sworn in as Safety Officer
- Albert A. Jacoby was sworn in as Assistant Safety Officer

AUDITORS REPORT: (Rob Inverso)

1. Chief Mullen reported the audit was conducted last week and we should have the report in approximate a month to 45 days.

SOLICITOR: Robert Gaskill

1. Solicitor Gaskill reported he has nothing for open 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:

1. Commissioner Bauer reported we are interviewing candidates for EMS and everything is moving along quite well.

5-Year Planning:

1. Commissioner Schoen reported a meeting was held on April 3, 2017.

Building and Grounds:

1. None.

Insurance:

1. None.

Purchases:

1. A list was emailed to the Board.

Policy:

1. Under “Old Business” the EMS Policies.

Fire Company Liaison:

1. Chief Mullen reported he will be updating the 2017 contract. The target date is for the May meeting for the Board to review.

Radio:

1. Progress.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

1. None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. None.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

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

PUBLIC HEARING – ADOPT SECTION 1100 EMS – 2nd READING

1. A motion was made by Commission Berry and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to open the meeting to the public for discussion of EMS Section 1100 – 2nd Reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mullen: “I did send the Board last week, last Thursday, just some comments that were made to the Solicitor that I had received regarding the policies. I’m just going to make that part of the minutes; just that we received some public comment on it.”

Solicitor Gaskill: “You’re not proposing a change, I hope.”

5 **Chief Mullen:** “The one I think we would look at to make a change is the one that says we can allow our members to exceed the speed limit by five miles an hour. I think we should just eliminate that completely out of there because your saying it’s ok to break the law. So that would be one to look at to eliminate. I spoke with Chief Taylor and she is in agreement.”

10 **Solicitor Gaskill:** “We are going to vote shortly on this. Is it eliminated in this version?”

Chief C. Taylor: “It’s going to be. I have not, I did not get to make the change today, but yes, the change will be made. We want to make that change.”

Solicitor Gaskill: “But the idea is, you are presenting it for a final vote, they have to know what the final version is to vote.”

15 **Chief Mullen:** “Ok.”

Chief C. Taylor: “Ok, they will not be allowed to go five miles above the speed limit.”

Solicitor Gaskill: “But everything else is as it is presented?”

20 **Chief C. Taylor:** “Other than what I’m about to tell you. Ok. There are several typos throughout that have been corrected and volunteering under Section 1173, ‘volunteering’ was removed. And there is a word in Section 1125 Responsibility, under Responsibility, ‘competition’ should be ‘completion’. That’s it.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Typo, right?”

Chief C. Taylor: “Well, it was a spell check thing and I hit the wrong word. But the rest are typo corrections.”

25 **Commissioner Berry:** “Mr. Chairman, I think I would make a motion that we table this until the next meeting and let all the changes flow.”

Chief C. Taylor: “OK.”

30 **Commissioner Barry:** “Give her time, give Chief Taylor the time to re-write it and give the attorney a chance to make the change, what you want to change before we vote on it so that everything is 100% complete before we vote on it. My motion is to table it until the next meeting for 2nd Reading.”

Commissioner Fratinardo: “Second.”

Commissioner Bauer: “I have a question.”

Chief C. Taylor: “Ok.”

35 **Commissioner Bauer:** “You’re taking the allowance of somebody to go over the limit. Does that in turn prohibit someone from going over the speed limit?”

Chief C. Taylor: “They’re not supposed to go over speed limit. The reason why I said five miles an hour over the speed limit is we had just finished Target Solutions training which

40 permitted emergency vehicles – in an emergency mode – to go over the speed limit by five miles an hour, and that was the only reason why it was in there.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Ok, so my question is...”

Chief C. Taylor: “I’m removing it.”

Commissioner Bauer: “You’re removing it. So that in turn would prohibit anybody from going over the speed limit in an emergency situation.

45 **Chief C. Taylor:** “Well you’re not supposed to speed anyway. The lights and sirens are supposed to ask the people to move aside to let you move through, and that’s all it does.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Ok.”

Chief C. Taylor: “It doesn’t give you any special privileges. Does that answer your question?”

50 **Commissioner Bauer:** “Yes, so when you’re going past a school and your lights are flashing, and red lights...”

Chief C. Taylor: “I stop in the cross walk. If there are people in the cross walk, I stop.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Ok.”

Chief C. Taylor: “Lights and all.”

55 **Commissioner Bauer:** “Is this a state-wide thing? What school did you say you had? Or what kind of training did you have that said you are allowed to?”

Chief C. Taylor: “Target Solutions. It’s what we train here on-line.”

Commissioner Schoen: “It’s the on-line thing we use.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Alright, so we are basically against what they are teaching?”

60 **Chief C. Taylor:** “Mmmhmm.”

Chief Mullen: “I can address the training end of it. But I don’t know if we would advocate our members to want to break the law. I don’t know if that’s, God forbid if they...”

Solicitor Gaskill: “I intend to think that’s a bad idea.”

Chief Mullen: “That’s a really bad idea. So I think we need ...”

65 **Solicitor Gaskill:** “Plus, I don’t think you have the authority to do that.”

Chief Mullen: “Oh, ok.”

Commissioner Bauer: “But that wasn’t my question at all. My question is now does this prohibit, because there may be a time where you may want to step it up?”

Chief C. Taylor: “And the medics will tell them to step it up.”

70 **Commissioner Bauer:** “I think I’ve heard that.”

Chief C. Taylor: “Well.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Ok. That’s my question.”

Chief C. Taylor: “Ok.”

75 **Solicitor Gaskill:** “Ask you carrier, the JIF, if they think it’s a good idea to put in your SOPs if you can exceed the speed limit by five miles an hour.”

80 **Chaplin Richardson:** “May I comment as the Safety? You leave yourself wide open if you... the speed limit is set at 50, and it’s common practice and procedure to do 65 because you’re on a run getting to the hospital and you have a traffic accident along the way, you leave yourself wide open for litigation to what authorized you to exceed the speed limit by 15 miles per hour. So to protect yourself, I don’t think anyway we want it in our SOPs or guidelines to say we authorize you to go above the speed limit, period so, in that realm, I think.”

Commissioner Bauer: “And I don’t think anyone really listened to what I said. Are we prohibiting it?”

85 **Chaplin Richardson:** “Are we prohibiting it?”

Commissioner Bauer: “That’s the question.”

Indistinguishable, multiple people speaking.

Commissioner Bauer: “That’s all. It’s easy. You guys can handle it the right way. Bob will tell them.”

90 **Solicitor Gaskill:** “What do you want me to do?”

Commissioner Bauer: “Oh, we’ll talk later.” *(Everyone laughing.)*

Mr. Albert Jacoby: “I think that’s listed under Title 39 in the motor vehicle code book about emergency vehicles as far as speed and proceeding with due caution, etc., etc.”

95 **Commissioner Bauer:** “I guess we are going to have to look that up to see just exactly what it says. Thanks Al!”

Mr. Jack Jobs: *(Not legible.)*

Commissioner Bauer: “Can we use that gavel on that? Will that bust? *(Everyone laughing.)*”

Commissioner Schoen: “This is only made of wood, it won’t affect it.”

Chief Mullen: “You have a motion on the table.”

100 **Mr. Jack Jobs:** “So do the speed limit unless you are going to my house.”

Commissioner Bauer: “That’s the point I was trying to make Jack.”

Commissioner Berry: “There’s a motion on the table. You just need a roll call.”

Chief Mullen: “Ok. You just need a roll call. There is a motion and a second at the table.”

Commissioner Schoen: “Is it a role call if it’s a motion to table it?”

105 **Commissioner Berry:** “Well a public hearing, it’s a roll call. I’m just assuming the motion to table it would follow.”

Commissioner Bauer: “Well whatever you think Bob.”

Commissioner Schoen: “Ok. Let’s have a roll call.”

Chief Taylor: “Commissioner Bauer?”

110 **Commissioner Bauer:** “Yes.”

Chief Taylor: “Commissioner Berry?”

Commissioner Berry: “Yes.”

Chief Taylor: “Commissioner Fratinardo?”

Commissioner Fratinardo: “Yes.”

115 **Chief Taylor:** “Commissioner Popso is absent. Commissioner Schoen?”

Commissioner Schoen: “Yes.”

Chief Taylor: “Motion carried.”

PUBLIC HEARING – ALTERNATE PROCUREMENT METHOD

120 1. A motion was made by Commission Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Berry to open the meeting to the public to discuss an alternate procurement method, the Houston Galveston Area Council to purchase EMS apparatus, AEV 164” Ford E-450 Type III Ambulance. Motion carried unanimously.

125 **Solicitor Gaskill:** “I had a chance to look over the document the Chief sent me, and everything appears to be in order and lawful as presented.

Chief Mullen: “And I did today, receive a price verification from HGAC Buy, so it does match up. There was one thing with the contract that was not put in there which was their fee. I told him to add that. Because right now we are not entering the contract yet, we are letting the public know where the intent is that we are going to enter into a contract with
130 HGAC. For those of you who do not know HGAC, it’s a national cooperative. The District has used that in the past to purchase our SCBA and our engine as well.”

Solicitor Gaskill: “You saved quite a bit of money using them before.”

Chief Mullen: “If anyone wants to see, I have the specs for the ambulance.”

Solicitor Gaskill: “Do you remember how much we saved with the SCBA?”

135 **Chief Mullen:** “The SCBA was about a little over \$50,000 dollars between the state contract pricing and HGAC.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Berry to close the public portion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. RESOLUTION 2017-17 NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC OF THE BOARD'S INTENT TO CONTRACT WITH VCI EMERGENCY VEHICLES FOR AN AEV 164" FORD E-450 TYPE III AMBULANCE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A.52:34-6.2(b)(3)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adopt RESOLUTION 2017-17 NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC OF THE BOARD'S INTENT TO CONTRACT WITH VCI EMERGENCY VEHICLES FOR AN AEV 164" FORD E-450 TYPE III AMBULANCE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A.52:34-6.2(b)(3).

On the question, Chief Mullen asked the Board when they want to adopt, as he needs to put a public notice out. He did not put the date in the resolution. It was decided to be adopted at the May 8th, 2017 regular meeting.

It is a three-step process. This is the second step notifying the public your intent is to enter into a contract. The next meeting, you will enter into that contract. Each part has to be advertised to the public to the open meeting to give the public an opportunity to speak if they wish, and make comments on the purchase.

Roll call vote: Commissioner Bauer: Yes; Commissioner Berry: Yes; Commissioner Fratinardo: Yes; Commissioner Popso is absent; Commissioner Schoen; Yes. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Hiring of Firefighter – Chief Mullen reported to the Board it is under way. It will be an on-going process and part of it is we are waiting for Civil Service to do their part. The new list is out.
4. Meeting with Pierce – Update for the new engine. They met with Pierce again today and were able to get the hose bed they wanted. Chief Mullen advised the Board there may be some additional costs that pop up that may need to be approved at workshop meetings. They are trying to keep it in an August-September delivery date. They are still well under the authorized amount.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Hiring of per-diem EMTs – Commissioner Bauer spoke about this earlier in the meeting.
2. Approve Volunteer incentive payout per Department policy.
A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to approve the Volunteer Incentive Payout per Department Policy. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Omniflex Auto Vac – Floor cleaning Machine - \$2,000.00
FM Richardson reported it is a small 10-gallon machine capable of doing our hallways, bathrooms, kitchen, and the meeting room as well as the blue room. It is capable of doing the engine room as well with a different micro-fiber cloth. It has a lithium battery and wet/dry vac. It was “phenomenal” when they tested it.
A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Berry to approve the purchase of the Omniflex Auto Vac not to exceed \$2,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Parts for Compressor & New Hose Reel - \$1,300.00
A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the purchase of parts for the compressor & new hose reel not to exceed \$1,300.00. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Proposal for Landscaping – A. Jacoby and Sons Landscapes - \$2,300.00
A motion was made by Commissioner Berry and seconded by commissioner Fratinardo to

approve the proposal for A. Jacoby and Sons Landscapes to do the landscaping not to exceed \$2,300.00. Motion carried unanimously.

GOOD OF THE BOARD:

1. None.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

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

Chaplain Richardson: "I would like to wish everybody a blessed Passover for our Jewish members; and for our Christian members a very happy and blessed Easter season.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 19:25 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Taylor