

October 11, 2021

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 11, 2021

Meeting ID: 839 5291 8914

Password: 684054

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 placed on the department’s website, Facebook account, the Township calendar and the Township website. Furthermore, it has been published in the Burlington County Times and the Trenton Times.”

**ROLL CALL: Present** – Charles Bauer, Andrew Popso, and Robert Schoen.

**Absent-** John Fratinardo and Jason Ryan

**NOTE:** Commissioner Ryan is on-line as of 7:05pm.

**PRESENTATION OF BILLS:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Popso to pay all the bills. The motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER REPORT:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Popso to approve the treasurer’s report. The motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Waiting for the list from Civil Service for EMS Chief
2. PowerLift System and items required directed to fit our existing cot have been ordered for ambulance 4081 from the Emergency Equipment Sales and Service.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution 2021-31 **RESOLUTION APPOINTING OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES OF FUNDS FOR THE FLORENCE TWP. FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Popso to adopt **Resolution 2021-31 RESOLUTION APPOINTING OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES OF FUNDS FOR THE FLORENCE TWP. FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1** to Truist. Roll call: Commissioner Bauer – Yes; Commissioner Fratinardo is absent; Commissioner Popso – Yes; Commissioner Ryan is absent; Commissioner Schoen – Yes. The motion carried unanimously. (4-0-0)

Note: BB&T and SunTrust names have changed and became TRUIST.

2. Resolution 2021-32 **RESOLUTION OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 ESTABLISHING THE STIPENDS AND FRINGE BENEFITS OF THE OFFICE OF FIRE COMMISSIONER.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Popso to approve Resolution **2021-32 RESOLUTION OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 ESTABLISHING THE STIPENDS AND FRINGE BENEFITS OF THE OFFICE OF FIRE COMMISSIONER**. Roll call: Commissioner Bauer – Yes; Commissioner Fratinardo is absent; Commissioner Popso – Yes; Commissioner Ryan is absent; Commissioner Schoen – Yes. The motion carried unanimously. (4-0-0)

### MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

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

**Commissioner Schoen:** “The meeting is open to the public. Yes Sir.”

**Mr. Miller:** “Arnold Miller, I was just advised last minute I was supposed to be coming here to...”

**Commissioner Schoen:** “Excuse me. Can we have your address?”

**Mr. Miller:** “My Address?”

5 **Commissioner Schoen:** “Yes.”

**Mr. Miller:** “##### Heading-Jacksonville Road.”

**Commissioner Schoen:** “Is that Mansfield Township or Springfield?”

**Mr. Miller:** “Mansfield Township.”

**Commissioner Schoen:** “Okay. Go ahead.”

10 **Mr. Miller:** “I was supposed to be coming here for a swearing in service this evening. It is what it is. But I actually found out Saturday from my wife, whose a little upset, who went out of her way to get my son brought up from Camp Lejeune for a swearing in service tonight and an extra day for my daughter being held over, going back to her week. So luckily we are getting a rain-check on our flights, but I’m a little upset that was a last minute decision even though it was brought up a few weeks ago that it was

15 approved. I just want to make that known. That’s all.”  
**Commissioner Bauer:** “Arnold, on that, it may have been brought up what was going to happen with you , but it didn’t get on the agenda until last minute for us. And getting the procedure on how it was going to be done was a question, and things that go along with it was also in question. So I don’t really think there’s anybody here that’s against you but you got to understand sometimes, you know, there’s a process we have. And they must have bestowed on us that it was going to be here that night. I was in as much shock as you. You probably knew about the thing long before I did. How’s that.”

20 **Mr. Miller:** “About what thing?”

**Commissioner Bauer:** “About when you were going to be, when this position was going to be offered, given to you.”

25 **Mr. Miller:** “No, I don’t think so.”

**Commissioner Bauer:** “I think so. I’ll tell you right now I know so. I did not know. You probably knew, like I said, long before I did. And I’m talking maybe five, six days, that that was going to happen at this meeting. That’s all. I don’t think there’s a problem. I know that when you were a Commissioner here, you wouldn’t let something like that pass through. Not from you. So that’s all I’m trying to say. It’s nothing personal or anything out of the way, that’s all. Sorry for the inconvenience it may have caused you.”

30 **Mr. Miller:** “Yeah, it is what it is. It’s not going to happen. Like I said, just after I found out Saturday that my son was coming – who I haven’t seen him in six months – my wife went out of her way to make arrangements and get him leave...”

35 **Commissioner Bauer:** “Mm-hmm, I understand.”

**Mr. Miller:** “It would have been nice to see them, but.”

**Commissioner Bauer:** “Mm-hmm.”

**Mr. Miller:** “Mr. Chair.”

40 **Chief Rzomp:** “Bill Rzomp, XX Seventh Avenue, Roebling New Jersey. Just some clarification over the email sent out. I was hoping that I would see it on the agenda tonight. Is the Board going to approve the command vehicles so that we can start to use them again? There was a letter sent to me that none of the vehicles were approved by the Board of Education, so just looking for some clarification.”

**Commissioner Bauer:** “Command vehicles?”

**Chief Rzomp:** “Yes”

45 **Commissioner Bauer:** “What are we talking about, buying new vehicles?”

**Commissioner Schoen:** “No.”

**Chief Rzomp:** “Negative.”

**Commissioner Bauer:** “Inspection vehicles? All of a sudden we’re out of them?”

50 **Chief Rzomp:** “No. There was an email sent by Commissioner Popso that the District-owned vehicles have been, I actually stated furthermore, ““The District-owned vehicle has been approved by the Board of Fire Commission to be allocated to anyone.”” I think anyone is any of us. “

**Commissioner Schoen:** “I think that pertains to change of the use.”

55 **Chief Rzomp:** “Then, I just had a second question on that. There was also mentioned that the Board feels that none of our command vehicles should be out of town. Is that for District personnel or District and volunteer personnel? There should be a line drawn in the sand.”

**Commissioner Bauer:** “(Inaudible), Say it, if you would.”

**Chief Rzomp:** “There was a conversation that came up...”

**Commissioner Bauer:** “Uh-huh”

**Commissioner Bauer:** “ that the vehicles should not be out of town.”

60 **Commissioner Bauer:** “Chief, was I copied on that email?”

**Chief Rzomp:** “It was a conversation.”

**Commissioner Popso:** “Someone came to talk to me about Chief Rzomp.”

**Commissioner Bauer:** “Oh, okay.”

**Chief Rzomp:** “I was just trying to make sure that we are all on the same page. That’s all.”

65 **Commissioner Bauer:** “Well we will be maybe tonight, alright? As far as...”

**Chief Rzomp:** “No, I just have one last one.”

70 **Commissioner Bauer:** “Let me answer that. As far as I can say it to you is, when vehicles go out of town, people ask me why they are out of town, where they are. Okay? So, I have to answer to them. You know I do. Alright so, and as far as the chain, who has a vehicle and who has the vehicle we are referring to was given to somebody who is an officer and he uses that in town. I don’t think I’ve ever gotten a call about it being in some other town, or even something like this. That’s the thing. But when I’m looking at vehicles and stuff, I represent, I try to take care of the people in this town. When they come to me and say ‘Well, how come this vehicle was here?’ How did they do it before you were chief, and after you were commissioner, we had a vehicle that was literally out of town. I thought it was pretty reasonable, at least I was told why it was being used every day. It was because we couldn’t fix the vehicle, and going back to this thing, we were told to keep the vehicle running. It sat in front of somebody’s house. And if it sat in front of somebody’s house, why couldn’t he use it for a couple of days? So somebody from here got authorization and took it home to keep it running every day. And it wasn’t very far out of town, although it was as far as the vehicle you’re talking about. But somebody came to me, somebody a little bit you know, okay, from the Township. One of the councilmen came to me and complained about the vehicle being parked in front of another place, and I had to handle it.”

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**Chief Rzomp:** “I respect that. Just making sure we had some clarification, that’s all.

**Commissioner Bauer:** “Make sure what Bill?”

**Chief Rzomp:** “Just making sure that we had some clarification, that’s all. I respect what you guys decide.”

85 **Commissioner Bauer:** “If you ask me, it’s how I feel, you know?”

**Chief Rzomp:** “I’d rather have it that way.”

**Commissioner Schoen:** “Anyone else? Go ahead.”

**Thomas Marabillas:** “A firefighter from Florence. What was that resolution that was passed tonight? Can you read that for me, which resolution?”

90 **Commissioner Bauer:** “I can read that to you. Do you have it in front of you?”

**FF Marabillas:** “I think so, but it’s a different number.”

**Commssioner Bauer:** “What does it say?”

**FF Marabillas:** “This is twenty-one dash thirty-three (21-33). I’m just making sure you guys have the correct number you pass on your resolution.”

95 **Commissioner Bauer:** “Oh, Thirty-two (32).”

**FF Marabillas:** “It’s thirty-two (32)? I have thirty-three (33) in front of me.”

**BC Richardson:** “Which one are you talking about Tom? Which one is in question?”

**FF Marabillas:** “This is what I have.”

**BC Richardson:** “That is the correct number.”

100 **FF Marabillas:** “So we approved a different resolution?”

**Chief Rzomp:** “Yeah I think on the minutes, Brian...”

**BC Richardson:** “My apology. We will fix that.”

**Commissioner Bauer:** “Brian, what you sent out to me, I have here thirty-two (32), I have a resolution sitting in front of me that’s thirty-two (32). So what’s thirty-three (33)?”

105 **BC Richardson:** “The minutes...”

**Chief Rzomp:** (Not legible. Multiple people speaking.)

**Commissioner Bauer:** “I have a thirty-one (31) and a thirty-two (32).”

**BC Richardson:** “There’s a thirty-two (32), thirty-three (33), and a thirty-four (34).”

**FF Marabillas:** “Can you read that back, the NFA?”

110 **BC Richardson:** “There’s a thirty-two (32), thirty-three (33), and a thirty-four (34). Yeah.”

**FF Marabillas:** “So there should be three (3) resolutions.”

**BC Rzomp:** “I think the ones we got out here in the public, we have thirty-two (32), thirty-three (33), and thirty-four (34). I think that was just a ...”

**FF Marabillas:** “Thirty-four?”

115 **BC Richardson:** “Yeah.”

**BC Rzomp:** “...the clarification. That’s all it was.”

**FF Marabillas:** “Is that the one that was just approved?”

**BC Richardson:** “The numbers on the minutes are incorrect. When I went and I checked the resolutions after I made it, there was already a thirty-one (31). So, I changed the numbers on the resolutions. I forgot to update the minutes. It is my error.”

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(Multiple people speaking in the background.)

**FF Marabillas:** “Resolution thirty-two (32) was approved. I believe it was meant to be thirty-two (32) and three (3).”

**Mr. Miller:** “You have thirty-three in that pile?”

125 **Commissioner Bauer:** “You know something? Did you move that around? Let me see.”

**BC Richardson:** “Thirty-two (32) should be the depository; thirty-three (33) should be the stipends.”

**Commissioner Bauer:** “Okay.”

**BC Richardson:** “And again, that is my fault.”

**Commissioner Bauer:** “So we didn’t do thirty-three (33).”

130 **Mr. Miller:** “Correct.”

**Commissioner Bauer:** “So we have to do thirty-three (33).”

**BC Richardson:** “We have to revisit new business and redo the motions again, after the public.”

**FF Marabillas:** “So my question is in thirty-three (33), not thirty-two (32). I just want to go over what is the change that resolution brings? I see thirty-three (33), but what is it changing?”

135 **Commissioner Bauer:** “It’s changing the amount of money the Fire Commissioners are compensated at.”

**FF Marabillas:** “Is that an increase or decrease?”

**Commissioner Bauer:** “That is an increase. Now ask the next question.”

**FF Marabillas:** “Ah, I was just wondering about the appropriateness of doing this while we are currently under negotiations.”

140 **Commissioner Bauer:** “Well this is how it goes. If you actually know what’s going on here, I know you do your research sometimes. Um, we have received for a long time, we have received a phone and equipment stipend. Alright?”

**FF Marabillas:** “Um-hmm.”

145 **Commissioner Bauer:** So we discussed it, things that were going on, and that stipend just out of the habit studied that stipend is one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) a month for a phone. So what we did is we did away a hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) a month, and dropped it down, and combined it into the salary which is supposed to be transparent. So basically what we had done in a time that we are negotiating, and I am one of the people who is asking to give back some to you, but what we have done is in good faith. We have given fifty dollars (\$50.00) a month back. Okay, it doesn’t seem like a lot.”

150 **FF Marabillas:** “So it would be a decrease?”

**Commissioner Bauer:** “It’s a decrease.”

**FF Marabillas:** “Okay.”

**Commissioner Bauer:** “What it is is a transparent pay cut that I guess maybe you didn’t see? Or just looking at this resolution you see that number two hundred dollars (\$200.00) and made it look like a big raise?”

155 **FF Marabillas:** “And that’s why it’s being asked about.”

**Commissioner Bauer:** “Okay, so you understand. We, the Board of Commissioners, have given that for transparency, and also to cut back on what we spend. And the reason we’re cutting back on it is we haven’t utilized it for the past couple of years. Things have changed here. When we got that telephone stipend it was one of those things I (*inaudible*), I sat here, and somebody was an officer here and he (*inaudible*). You know, talking and calling people and stuff like that. And he wanted a telephone stipend. Well, we thought about it. And in those days, way back then you didn’t have a free call or an unlimited call. You also didn’t have unlimited data. So we gave that person that stipend. I guess it was a couple of months later I came to one of the Fire Company meetings. And I’m sitting here and I’m watching that

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165 person with that phone sitting in the back of the Fire Company meeting, and he had that phone with him  
to make phone calls and use that data and used their minutes. They were sitting there playing with the  
phone. They probably had a game on the phone. Well this didn't sit well. So I figure, why are they going  
to play games, and yet I'm out buying a phone, earning my time up. So I requested what are we going to  
do about it? So that's where this stipend came for the phones. Now, you really needed it last year with all  
170 this virtual stuff we're doing. You know. You have an opportunity to come here and use the computer. I  
don't have any, I have a phone. So what we've done now that we use virtual on line, I think it's time to  
give it back, or give a little bit of the money back. Does that answer you good enough?"

**FF Marabillas:** "Yes it does."

**Commissioner Bauer:** "Okay."

**Commissioner Schoen:** "Anybody else?"

175 A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Popso to close the  
meeting to the public. All ayes and the motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

3. Resolution **2021-32 RESOLUTION APPOINTING OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES OF FUNDS FOR THE FLORENCE TWP. FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Popso to adopt  
**Resolution 2021-32 RESOLUTION APPOINTING OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES OF FUNDS FOR THE FLORENCE TWP. FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1**  
to Truist. Roll call: Commissioner Bauer – Yes; Commissioner Fratinardo is absent;  
Commissioner Popso – Yes; Commissioner Ryan - Yes; Commissioner Schoen – Yes. The  
motion carried unanimously. (4-0-0)

4. Resolution **2021-33 RESOLUTION OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 ESTABLISHING THE STIPENDS AND FRINGE BENEFITS OF THE OFFICE OF FIRE COMMISSIONER**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Popso to  
approve Resolution **2021-33 RESOLUTION OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 ESTABLISHING THE STIPENDS AND FRINGE BENEFITS OF THE OFFICE OF FIRE COMMISSIONER.** Roll call: Commissioner Bauer – Yes;  
Commissioner Fratinardo is absent; Commissioner Popso – Yes; Commissioner Ryan - Yes;  
Commissioner Schoen – Yes. The motion carried unanimously. (4-0-0)

**CLOSED SESSION:**

**Resolution 2021-34 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM MEETING.**

Commissioner Bauer made a motion to adopt **Resolution 2021-34 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM MEETING** to discuss personnel and contracts which was seconded  
Commissioner Popso. Action may be taken after closed session. Roll call: Commissioner Bauer –  
Yes; Commissioner Fratinardo is absent; Commissioner Popso – Yes; Commissioner Ryan - Yes;  
Commissioner Schoen – Yes. The motion carried unanimously. (4-0-0)

7:21pm Closed session started.

9:39pm Closed session ended.

Commissioner Bauer made a motion to come out of closed session which was seconded by  
Commissioner Popso. The motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Ryan and seconded by Commissioner Bauer to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Taylor