

November 8, 2021

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Meeting ID: 862 6049 6297

Password: 596139

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, John Fratinardo, Andrew Popso, and Robert Schoen.
Absent – Jason Ryan

Also in attendance is Chief William Rzomp.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

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

TREASURER REPORT:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. PowerLift System has been installed in ambulance 4081.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

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

Commissioner Schoen: “Go ahead Bill.”

Firefighter Blackwell: “William Blackwell, ## Riverbank Drive in Roebling. How are you Charlie?”

Commissioner Bauer: “Not that good.”

Firefighter Blackwell: “Um, about a couple weeks ago, I haven’t been around lately due to medical issues, but a couple weeks ago we received an email to the active membership that for second rig calls the career staff must use the ambulance to respond. But meanwhile, you’ve got volunteers like myself that do in-house duty crews with the career staff that aren’t certified EMTs. So my question was do you want the not certified volunteer to stay behind? It was implied to me that that would be the case. Well, what I

10 am confused about Commissioners is that you got everybody wanting to have a bigger response, a
 bigger turnout for calls. So meanwhile, with this situation you are splitting your crews up. Now during
 the pandemic, it was a headache to me because we were going through the same thing, but we were told
 it was going to be temporary. And it was. It was as of, I want to say, earlier this year that it was
 dismantled and everything went back to normal. But now it's making it sound that it is a definite
 15 situation. Now I understand that myself not being allowed in the ambulance, even on second rig calls.
 With two, take the engine. I do not touch the patient; I do not touch the equipment. I am a gofer for
 them, but I am on the truck. However, when you have the career staff take the ambulance, leave me
 behind, I'm told to wait for other volunteers to show up for a fire call. Now not to put down the
 volunteers because we've got quite a handful of guys, I can't rely on just one other person to show up
 and get the truck out with me. Do we know when the uh situation with the uh, said with the career staff
 20 taking the ambulance is going to end like to a point where we can take the truck to every single second
 rig?"

Commissioner Bauer: "No,"

Commissioner Popso: "Second rig calls that the career staff are responding to are ALS calls. So it is not
 every second rig call that the career staff are responding to. You are saying every single second rig call.
 25 That's not the case. It's every ALS call that they're taking. And you guys staying back as volunteers, I
 would stress that decision is on the chief. But as far as the calls they're taking, they are take ALS calls on
 initial dispatch."

Firefighter Blackwell: "So if a fire call comes in while they are on a ALS, they are transporting. And there
 is going to be a call where it could be uh, where we would require mutual aid. I am still relying like on a
 30 chance trying to get other guys here to take at least one other truck out."

Commissioner Popso: "So you are saying that you are not for our ambulance getting out for an ALS call for
 a human being?"

Firefighter Blackwell: "I am saying that like, what I am confused about Commissioners is that, you have,
 we're trying to supposed to get a bigger turnout for fire calls, meanwhile your splitting crews up."

Commissioner Popso: "I don't see it as splitting crews up, I see it as all being coming out of the pagers, and
 the ALS calls that are human beings, the taxpayer, the citizen, that is advanced life support that is being
 dispatched with them through Central who is trained to EMD that call. We are giving them the best care
 that we have. In the event, if and when a fire call goes out, you have to be here, yes I would encourage
 you to hang tight and take the fire call. Two minutes later you have to come in for a fire call, it would be
 40 no different that the career fire staff on out of town for a cover assignment. And we need to go out of
 town and while officers show up, we are going to have mutual aid come in for our covers, we're mutual
 aid for that as well. So you can what if it all day long, but right now, it's ALS calls that the career staff is
 going to take. So to answer your question, it doesn't go into perfect detail how I'd like but, the career
 staff at this time will be taking the second rig ALS calls as dispatched. And then anything other than that
 45 goes to the Chief."

Firefighter Blackwell: "All right. It will be just like I'll just make sure I sit by the pump panel waiting for
 someone who is qualified to drive or you know, whatnot, to show up and take a call with me."

Commissioner Bauer: "Good."

Commissioner Schoen: "Anybody else?"

50 **Chief Rzomp:** "There is no one on line."

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

CLOSED SESSION:

Resolution 2021-37 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM MEETING.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schoen and seconded by Commission Fratinardo to adopt **Resolution 2021-37 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM MEETING** to discuss personnel and contracts. Roll call: Commissioner Bauer – Yes; Commissioner Fratinardo – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Yes; Commissioner Ryan is absent; Commissioner Schoen – Yes. The motion carried unanimously. (4-0-0)

Note: Action may be taken after closed session.

7:07pm Closed session started.

8:36pm Closed session ended.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Bauer to come out of closed session. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS continued

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to transfer the 2003 Crown Vic to Bordentown City Station 601. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Taylor