

February 13, 2023

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 13, 2023

Meeting ID: 824 8424 8166

Passcode: 242899

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 – John Fratinardo, Andrew Popso, Jason Ryan-Virtual, Robert Schoen, and Steven Taylor.

Absent: None

Also in attendance: Administrator Robert Tharp, Battalion Chief Arnold. Miller, EMS Division Chief Chris Parks, Firefighter W. Blackwell.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the previous meeting January 23, 2023, workshop meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Popso to approve the minutes of the previous meeting January 23, 2023, workshop meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT:

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

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

1. Applicant for Fire Division Auxiliary Fredrick Gabriele background complete forwarded to company.

FIRE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Robert Tharp

1. Reported the Fire Division responded to 48 fire assignments since the last meeting.
2. January 29th, 2023, the department responded to a structure fire at 2098 Old York Road the fire involved the attic and contents. The fire was dispatched at 1:04 AM the department remained on scene until 4:36 AM. Everybody did an excellent job from the members who responded. The response was timely, we had three personnel assigned with F/F Blackwell as

the third on duty crew staffing. Mutual aid companies responded, RE-4011 and Engine 4012 Florence units responded. We had a good a good response from our personnel.

3. January 31st, 2023 the department responded to Route 130 North hand Hughes Drive for a tractor trailer MVA, the tractor was filled with palletized stock that had many containers of hazardous substances, upgrading the incident to a full HAZ-MAT response. The operational period was from 5:19 AM to 3:52 PM. The department held over for overtime the working crew and call back overtime staffing was need for the Fire and EMS divisions. REHAB 13 was requested from Cherry Hill FD Camden County and the Burlington County HAZ-MAT team responded with personnel from the County Health Dept. and the Westampton Fire Dept.
4. The incident was very laborious, and all personnel worked well together, the unified command had no issues.
5. The EMS division has responded to 125 incidents since the last meeting.
6. Currently, the code enforcement division under FM Richardson is working with the schools for the NJ Division of Fire Safety's poster contest and requesting the school to participate in the DFS Fire Bowl.
7. FM Richardson is working with First Due and has a meeting scheduled to discuss the county platform and to discuss the pre-plan and inspection modules capabilities.
8. The IT department is working on the new website design and full implementation at the end of March.
9. We have received information from the NJ Division of Fire Safety regarding the WPVI Save a Life Smoke Detector giveaway program the division is hoping to coordinate and control logistics for the smoke detector giveaway.
10. We have received a letter of appreciation for Firefighters Cunningham and Dainis for their professionalism assisting a resident with their smoke detectors and follow up the letter was submitted by Mrs. Bencivengo from Cypress Court.
11. The election mail in ballots wee sent out by the Board of Elections on 2/1/23.
12. The poll workers have been confirmed for the election.
13. The voting machine is being delivered on February 16th.
14. The district has received the promotional exam results, for battalion Chief Lt Schoen placed number one. Also, on the Lieutenant promotional exam F/F Fyler placed number one and F/F Marabillas placed number two.
15. Administrator Tharp had a meeting with the Civil Service Commission on February 9th with the new representative for Burlington County.
16. Tower Ladder 4015 went back in service repairs were completed by Penn Diesel.
17. On February 10th, 2023, we had a Facebook live budget presentation presented by Administrator Tharp with 1,028 views. We have used all our available platforms to get information out to the residents about the budget.
18. NJ Division of Fire Safety Community Risk Reduction Specialist Ashley Bledsoe assisted the department in obtaining social media creating software with no cost to the district.
19. Administrator Tharp attended the Fire Threat task Force meeting in Gloucester County.
20. We have scheduled training of Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness on Suspicious Activity Reporting and the Division of Fire Safety training on NFIRS.
21. Administrator Tharp attended the Burlington County FF1 graduation with 17 new probationary firefighters throughout Burlington County.
22. Doorbell and security camera addition project is complete.

23. Lt. Schoen and the training division performed a pre-incident survey at the Heritage Trail with the department review the area and improve he department's emergency response.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Close Session from January 23, 2023, Civil Service hiring discussed.
2. Close Session from January 23, 2023, EMS personnel policies discussed.
3. Close Session from January 23, 2023, hiring procedures discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo on to approve \$ 50,546.90 payment to US Bancorp for contract payment for Rescue Engine 4011. The motion carried unanimously.
2. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Popso to approve \$ 11,993.08 payment to Penn Power Systems for repairs to Tower ladder 4015. The motion carried unanimously.
2. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Popso to approve payment \$ 39,344.38 payment to the Police and Fire Retirement System for delayed enrollment retroactive payment F/F Dainis. The motion carried unanimously.

GOOD OF THE BOARD:

1. The District participated in the Reading Across America Program with Roebing Elementary School.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

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

Hearing none,

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

CLOSED SESSION:

1. Adopt **RESOLUTION 2023-14 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM MEETING**

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adopt **RESOLUTION 2023-14 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM MEETING** to discuss Personnel and Contracts. Roll call vote: Commissioner Fratinardo – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Yes; Commissioner Ryan – Yes; Commissioner Schoen – Yes; Commissioner Taylor – Yes. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Note: Action may be taken after closed session.

7:11 pm Closed session began.

8:14 pm Closed session ended.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Popso to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Tharp
Fire District Administrator