

February 27, 2023

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING FEBRUARY 27, 2023

Meeting ID: 824 8424 8166

Passcode: 242899

Board Chairman Robert Schoen called the workshop 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, Jason Ryan, Robert Schoen, and Steven Taylor.

Absent: Andrew Popso

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

MINUTES:

Minutes of the previous meeting February 13, 2023, workshop meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to approve the minutes of the previous meeting February 13, 2023, regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

1. None at this time.

FIRE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Robert Tharp

1. Reported the Fire Division responded to 31 fire assignments since the last meeting. The EMS Division had responded to 89 assignments since the last meeting.
2. We are expecting the official election results from the February 18th to be received tomorrow, February 28th at 1100 hours. On election day there were no issues and the administrative part of the election went well. As reported on the 18th, the unofficial results- our 3 year term Fire Commissioner Fratinardo with 416 votes; the one year unexpired Fire Commissioner Scott Arnold with 218 votes and Steven Taylor with 203 votes. On budget question #1- 286 ‘yes’ votes, 230 ‘no’ votes. For budget question #2, the cap levy, was 273 votes for ‘yes’, and 230 for ‘no’.

3. The monthly Fire Officers meeting on February 21st with Battalion Chief Miller, Lieutenant Schoen, and Fire Administer Tharp. They reviewed grid assignments, the mutual aid plan, and discussed the needed changes for that.
4. Tharp attended the Township staff meeting on February 15th with the Township Administrator.
5. Tharp also attended the County Training Officers Association meeting with EMS Chief Parks. That organization is looking to restart, review, and recharge itself in assisting the county with training.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Close Session from February 13, 2023, discussed promotional lists.
2. Close Session from February 13, 2023, EMS/Fire personnel status.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Taylor to approve \$ 4,164 installment payment to the Barclay Group for Accidental Health Insurance. Roll call vote: Commissioner Fratinardo – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Absent; Commissioner Ryan – Yes; Commissioner Schoen – Yes; Commissioner Taylor – Yes. The motion carried 4-0-0.
2. A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to approve payment \$ 7,144.09 payment to the PSEG for utilities from January 6, 2023 to February 9, 2023. Roll call vote: Commissioner Fratinardo – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Absent; Commissioner Ryan – Yes; Commissioner Schoen – Yes; Commissioner Taylor – Yes. The motion carried 4-0-0.
3. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Ryan to approve payment of \$ 50,670.15 to Florence Township for 1st quarter health and dental benefits plan. Roll call vote: Commissioner Fratinardo – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Absent; Commissioner Ryan – Yes; Commissioner Schoen – Yes; Commissioner Taylor – Yes. The motion carried 4-0-0.
4. A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to approve payment of \$ 2,969.15 for fuel from December 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023 to Florence Township. Roll call vote: Commissioner Fratinardo – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Absent; Commissioner Ryan – Yes; Commissioner Schoen – Yes; Commissioner Taylor – Yes. The motion carried 4-0-0.
5. A motion was made by Commissioner Ryan and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to approve payment of \$ 13,000 to Florence Township Volunteer Fire Company 2nd installment as per fire company contract. Roll call vote: Commissioner Fratinardo – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Absent; Commissioner Ryan – Yes; Commissioner Schoen – Yes; Commissioner Taylor – Yes. The motion carried 4-0-0.

GOOD OF THE BOARD:

1. Received a thank you from Deer Park Fire Company Rehab 13 for reimbursement for HAZ-MAT incident.

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.

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

Mr. William Blackwell: “William Blackwell XX Riverbank Drive. Pardon me a little bit, I uh didn’t quite rehearse this. On February 18th, Saturday morning, um, about quarter to 7am, we received a call for a cardiac arrest on West 4th Street in Florence. I was on duty crew
5 throughout that night. I was at the firehouse when I got the phone call and the pager tones that it turned out to be my stepfather. Butch was life member and a long-time volunteer and fire police for Florence Township Fire Department. This is the first time where someone in my, well he was my stepfather but I consider him immediate family personally, where it was someone involved. And thanks to the comfort and professionalism of everyone on scene, from
10 the career staff that morning, to EMS that morning, to the police officers that morning- I knew my stepfather was in good hands. Um, my mother and sister became victims of the family dog, who was trying to protect my step-father, from he thought they were attacking him and uh, they, I mean so much was going on, I’m sure some family members would be over reacting- well not overreacting but very emotional about it- but knowing who I was with, knowing who
15 was handling the situation, everyone was doing a fantastic, marvelous job. I find peace in that. And my stepfather was the one who told me that the fire service and emergency services are more than just an organization- it’s family. And I’m very sure that as he was leaving this earth, that he tried his best patting everyone on the back saying ‘hey- you tried. I was there.’ So, reason why I never skip calls, I usually head out to the truck, but tonight I just wanted to say
20 that- as from a family member perspective, as a first responder, I want to thank everyone for coming out, doing their best, and- and you really tried. Thank you.

Commissioner Schoen: “Thank you very much. Do we have anybody else?”

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

CLOSED SESSION:

1. Adopt **RESOLUTION 2023-15 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM MEETING**

A motion was made by Commissioner Ryan and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adopt **RESOLUTION 2023-15 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM MEETING** to discuss personnel, contract, and personnel administrative policies. Roll call vote:

Commissioner Fratinardo – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Absent; Commissioner Ryan – Yes; Commissioner Schoen – Yes; Commissioner Taylor – Yes. The motion carried 4-0-0.

Note: Action may be taken after closed session.

7:12 pm Closed session began.

8:14 pm Closed session ended.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Ryan to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Tharp
Fire District Administrator