

March 13, 2023

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 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- Virtual, Jason Ryan, and Robert Schoen.

**Absent:** Steven Taylor

Also in attendance: Administrator Robert Tharp, Battalion Chief Arnold. Miller, Mayor Wilkie, Firefighter W. Blackwell, Arnold Family.

**OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS:**

1. For the Office of Fire Commissioner 3-year term: John Fratinardo, 542 votes. Write-ins; Jason Peters, 17 votes, Adam Schoen 1 vote, Steven Taylor 1 vote, Peter Sturak 1 vote, Daffy Duck 1 vote, Victor Raczka 1 vote, and Scott Arlond 1 vote. The winner of the 3- year term is Commissioner Fratinardo.
2. For the Office of Fire Commissioner 1-year unexpired term: Scott Arnold 228 votes, Steven Taylor 223 votes. Write-ins; Jason Peters 1 vote, John Smith 1 vote, Gene Colombe 1 vote. The winner of the 1-year unexpired term is Scott Arnold.
3. Question 1- Shall the sum of Three Million, Five Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand and One dollars, \$3,523,001.00 be raised by taxation for the 2023 Budget? The yes votes were 306. The no votes were 251.
4. Question 2- Shall the Commissioners of Fire District No. 1, in Florence Township, be authorized to increase the 2023 amount to be raised by taxation in the Fire District annual budget by Six Hundred and Twenty-Six Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Eight dollars and nine cents “\$626,778.09” as provided by N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.45, notwithstanding that its amount to be raised by taxation will exceed the two percent (2.0%) increase limitation. The yes votes were 294 and 250 no votes.

These official results are respectively submitted, Robert Tharp, Fire District administrator.

**SWEARING IN OF NEW COMMISSIONER:**

Mayor Wilkie swore Mr. Arnold into office.

Mayor Wilkie swore Mr. Fratinardo into office.

Roll call: Commissioner Fratinardo – Here; Commissioner Popso – Here; Commissioner Ryan – Here; Commissioner Schoen – Here; Commissioner Arnold – Here.

### **REORGANIZATION:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Schoen and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to nominate Commissioner Ryan for Chairman of the Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ryan and seconded by Commissioner Popso to nominate Commissioner Schoen for Vice-Chairman of the Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schoen and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to nominate Commissioner Popso for Treasurer of the Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schoen and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to nominate Commissioner Fratinardo for Chairman of the Board.

The year of 2023 Commissioners Chairman will be Commissioner Ryan. The Vice-Chair will be Commissioner Schoen. The Secretary will be Commissioner Fratinardo. The Treasurer will be Commissioner Popso. The Commissioner will be Commissioner Arnold.

### **MINUTES:**

Minutes of the previous meeting February 27, 2023, workshop meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ryan and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to approve the minutes of the previous meeting February 27, 2023, workshop meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

### **TREASURER REPORT:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Schoen and seconded by Commissioner Ryan to approve the treasurer's report. 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:**

No applications submitted.

### **FIRE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Robert Tharp**

1. The Fire Division, from the last meeting, responded to 38 assignments.
2. We did have- which becoming a trend throughout the country and in a region- we had a lithium-ion charger incident that was off gassing in a structure, and luckily the homeowner notified the Fire Department. These are well known throughout the country, on the news. This is becoming a matter of when, no longer if, that we will be responded to one of these incidents. Fire Marshall, Richardson and myself, we sat down and discussed a community

education campaign to start sending across our social media platforms and educating the public more on the lithium ion battery issues.

3. We've had 76 EMS assignments since our last meeting.
4. Engine 4012 is out for repair at Flynn's. They're replacing the rear suspension, the U bolts, rear brake chambers, and some other items to put the rig back in service. This was information from our Fire Apparatus Repair Preventative Maintenance report that came to us. Now that the budget is approved and we were able to get into Flynn's, we're continuing that work.
5. We had the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Reform National Fire Incident Reporting system training here at the Fire Station for training night, to give us more information on importing the proper information to that reporting system.
6. They got day crews participated in a joint education training with Station 322, continuing working with our partners and our mutual aid resources.
7. We have a live burn training scheduled for March 29th.
8. We're currently performing physical ability tests outside the station under the supervision of Battalion Chief Miller and Lieutenant Schoen. We're using the current Civil Service Commission physical performance testing standard, which has been working well with the people that have been taking it.
9. I am currently working with the Public Employees Occupational Safety Health Act and scheduled a voluntary consultation with them for March 30th. The benefit to us having a voluntary consultation is they come in- they'll review everything with us and it puts us in a situation where you don't get fined, you don't get violations. It's a good outreach program with PEOSHA plus some of the things that we're doing here. I don't see many issues with that, but it's always great to keep developing good partnerships with the state agencies.
10. I send a letter to the Township administrator, after Chief Miller brought forward to us, about issues with the South Avenue between 3rd, 4th, and 5th at where the streets end, it's very difficult because of the parking there, for apparatus to maneuver and navigate. South Avenue is scheduled to be improved and repaved, so we're going to meet out there Thursday with the Township to go over what we wanted them to do- and that's making it wider by 5 feet. So that was a good partnership between the Command Staff, Administration, and the Fire District.
11. The department participated in the Butch Earl Services.
12. We're currently sponsoring through our Public Education and Fire Marshall Richardson, the Riverfront Middle School with the Division of Fire Safety Fire Bowl, it's like a Fire Department Jeopardy for middle school and they compete. They drop off all the materials and give them to the kids to study, and then they'll compete. This year Florence will be represented in that that initiative.
13. Currently, with the capital budget items now that the budget is approved, I'm looking at the supply chain issues. One thing that I'd like to discuss further is the command vehicle. So right now, Dodge is locking out the current year. I've spoke to the dealer about sending them a letter of intent moving forward. This is something that we have to look at because this is becoming more and more of an issue with the supply chain. So if the board tonight can give me permission, at least to start the letter of intent to work on, but it's something that we need to put on our radar.

14. Holmatro is coming here on the 14<sup>th</sup>, tomorrow, to discuss and show us the equipment so we can see where it will fit on 4011, before we make a commitment to purchase.
15. Same thing with March 23<sup>rd</sup>, I have the Power Tech representative coming here to see where we can fit things on the apparatus before we make an investment.
16. I had a meeting with Virtua discussing the department's annual medical and other services they offer us.
17. I also met with the Civil Service Commission, discussed current personnel and job titles. I have a further specific report to give in closed session because it's in reference to our personnel.
18. Currently ordering the Department of Community Fair Grant items that we've been approved to, so we can start purchasing and getting reimbursed for those items.
19. We've had some locks that were repaired in the Record room, the mortise lock. We had that replaced and we continued securing the tool room with a new lock cylinder.
20. Chief Miller and I attended the County Chiefs meeting. There were many things brought up about the first two implementation that we're currently in and Todd has been working with that with our reporting and getting data from them. When our active 911 contract expires, we'll be using First Due to replace that.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Close Session from February 27, 2023, Personnel discipline resolved.
2. Close Session from February 27, 2023, Personnel promotion process discussed.
3. Close Session from February 27, 2023, District personnel policy revisions.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Arnold on to approve \$ 4,968.00 payment to Aladtec for renewal of scheduling and timeclock software platform. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **GOOD OF THE BOARD:**

1. None

#### **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

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

Hearing none,

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

#### **CLOSED SESSION:**

1. Adopt **RESOLUTION 2023-16 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM MEETING**

A motion was made by Commissioner Schoen and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adopt **RESOLUTION 2023-16 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 Arnold – Yes. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Note: Action may be taken after closed session.

7:19 pm Closed session began.

8:06 pm Closed session ended.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Schoen and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Tharp  
Fire District Administrator