

April 10, 2023

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING APRIL 10, 2023

Meeting ID: 820 4429 6759

Passcode: 620702

Board Chairman Jason Ryan 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, Robert Schoen

Absent: Scott Arnold

Also in attendance: Administrator Robert Tharp, Battalion Chief Arnold Miller, EMS Division Chief Chris Parks, Firefighter W. Blackwell, Firefighter Estelow, Firefighter Fyler, Phil Wilkus, A. Leach.

MINUTES:

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

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

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

1. Fire Division Applicant Anthony Krause background complete.
2. EMS Division Employment Daniel Scully background complete.

FIRE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Robert Tharp

1. Reported the Fire Division responded to 27 fire assignments since the last meeting.
2. On April 5th we were involved with a long-term extrication with a tanker tractor trailer on 295 that had gone off the highway. It took around an hour and 40 minutes to extricate the victim and wrap up the assignment. Battalion Chief Miller was on scene and had command. His report was that everybody did an outstanding job working with mutual aid companies and the gentleman was extricated safely with no other issues. The tank wasn’t compromised.
3. The Fountain of Life fire is still under investigation, when the investigation is complete Fire Marshal Richardson will do a press release to the public to let them know what we have

come up with. We are working with them to provide them with power and water for them to have Easter service. We are doing our best to work with them to provide them with what they need.

4. The Civil Service Commission is planning on releasing the test results at the end of April and plan to have the physical performance test in mid- June. That means the fire fighter hiring process is being pushed back a month or so.
5. The department participated in the Township Easter Egg Hunt.
6. We have upcoming community events that we will be participating in, the Florence Association Little League parade and the Roebling Museum car show, which would give us an opportunity to give out some fire prevention material.
7. The EMS Division has responded to 89 assignments since the last meeting. We currently have the full-time EMT position posted. The deadline for resumes are April 24th, and we are also advertising for per Diem employees.
8. Under Chief Parks, the community CPR is scheduled for the 26th of April, this is the first time in the district that we are offering free classes to the residents on CPR. It is designed for non-healthcare workers and will provide the resident with a 2-year valid CPR card. The first class will be held on Wednesday, April 26th, 2023 from 7pm to 10pm. In May, classes will be held on the third Tuesday of the month from 7pm to 10pm. There is a flyer with contact information on it, which has also been presented to the township council. We will also be doing classes on Child and Babysitter Safety, adult first aid, BLS for healthcare providers, and Stop the Bleed.
9. The week of May 21st to the 26th will be EMS week. The EMS Division plans to go to the schools to teach them about what we're doing in emergency basic lifesaving skills and more. We're holding different sample classes that we would be teaching throughout the weeks during the evenings for the public. Thursday, May 25th, to Stop the Bleed day and we'll be having American Red Cross at the Firehouse for blood donations, along with Stop the Bleed training for the community.
10. The Fire Department has started a pilot program which is the first in the county and state to help people with the active stages of addiction. It is a state grant run program that will be resident. They will visit the resident after BLS has responded to the residence for an overdose and provide free Narcan along with support information on assistance with addiction. It also provides first responders with mental health assistance.
11. We had an issue with the ambulance 4081. We've come up with a solution, Chief Shoen is working on getting the parts and the company will be doing work on it to relieve some of the issues with the suspension.
12. We've had a planning meeting about the Township Carnival and Patriotic Day. The carnival will be in town from May 31st to June 3rd. We submitted the cost of our EMS standby to the Township to forward to the carnival company. The Patriotic Day is scheduled for July 8th.
13. We had a live burn training on March 29th that was very well attended. We also had our mutual aid partner, Mansfield Fire Company, and we did a coordinated fire attack with them and things went very well working with them.
14. Currently on the training side, the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness will be here on Wednesday for the training night to conduct training on the Suspicious Activity Reporting System and give a briefing on the current trends and tactics being used in the state of New Jersey. On April 19th, New Jersey Transit will be giving us an emergency

response plan on the light rail. We're also having public service gas training on May 10th in regards to 1st responders safety and response procedures. We've been contacted by New Jersey Transit to participate in a full scale exercise for light rail on May 20th that will be at the Florence Township station.

15. We had PEOSHA on March 30th with our consultation went well. There were a few items to address, however, the PEOSHA inspector complimented us on how well we did and suggested that we apply to go to this sharp program, which is a higher tier for departments that meet many of the Department of Labor standards.
16. We had a Turnpike meeting in regards to how they're compensating the fire departments and EMS divisions that respond on the Turnpike.
17. Currently with the capital projects you'll see on the agenda tonight, we spoke about the Holmatro replacement of our hydraulic rescue tools and also our Paratech project, which is on the agenda. We were very fortunate to get under the current pricing on a state contract and Paratech offered us a deeper discount because we're trading in some of our older tools.
18. And if you get a chance, it hasn't been mounted yet, but in the museum we were able to find one of the original Halligan bars that was manufactured by Hugh Halligan, who invented the bar and it's got his signature on it. Firefighter Dainis refinished it.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Close Session from March 27, 2023, update on long term sick leave personnel.
2. Close Session from March 27, 2023, discussed employee's assistance program.
3. Close Session from March 27, 2023, discussed personnel hiring.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion made by Commissioner Schoen and seconded by Commissioner Fratinaro to approve \$ 97,214.74 purchase of Holmatro Rescue Equipment and installation on NJ State Contract 17-Fleet -00820, approved in Capital Improvement budget. Roll call vote: Commissioner Fratinaro – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Yes; Commissioner Ryan – Yes; Commissioner Schoen – Yes; Commissioner Arnold – Absent. The motion carried 4-0-1.
2. A motion was made by Commissioner Schoen and seconded by Commissioner Fratinaro to approve \$ 38,694.49 purchase of Paratech Rescue Equipment and installation on NJ State Contract 17-Fleet -00757, and trade in of old equipment approved in Capital Improvement budget. Roll call vote: Commissioner Fratinaro – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Yes; Commissioner Ryan – Yes; Commissioner Schoen – Yes; Commissioner Arnold – Absent. The motion carried 4-0-1.
3. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinaro and seconded by Commissioner Schoen motion to approve \$ 11,948.80 to Stryker Pro care Services for two-year contract for service and repair of the EMS Division's Stryker Equipment. Roll call vote: Commissioner Fratinaro – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Yes; Commissioner Ryan – Yes; Commissioner Schoen – Yes; Commissioner Arnold – Absent. The motion carried 4-0-1.

GOOD OF THE BOARD:

1. The department participated in the Township Easter Egg Hunt.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

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

Hearing none,

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

CLOSED SESSION:

1. Adopt **RESOLUTION 2023-19 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM MEETING**

A motion was made by Commissioner Popso and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adopt **RESOLUTION 2023-19 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM MEETING** to discuss personnel, contract, and personnel administrative policies. Roll call vote: Commissioner Fratinardo – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Yes; Commissioner Ryan – Yes; Commissioner Schoen – Yes; Commissioner Arnold – Absent. The motion carried 4-0-1.

Note: Action may be taken after closed session.

7:13 pm Closed session began.

8:00 pm Closed session ended.

2. A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo 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 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Tharp
Fire District Administrator