

July 24, 2023

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING JULY 24, 2023

Meeting ID: 847 3611 8296

Passcode: 311261

Board Chairman Jason Ryan 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, Andrew Popso, Jason Ryan, Robert Schoen, Scott Arnold

Absent:

Also in attendance: Administrator Tharp, EMS Division Chief Chris Parks, Firefighter W. Blackwell, EMT Reillo, Firefighter Moran, Firefighter Motta

MINUTES:

Minutes of the previous meeting July 10, 2023, regular meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Popso to approve the minutes of the previous meeting July 10, 2023, regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

1. EMS Division per diem EMT applicant James Otis Interviewed on July 21st.

FIRE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Robert Tharp

1. Reported the Fire Division responded to 51 fire assignments since the last meeting, which brings the total to 513 for the year so far.
2. We have had 102 EMS assignments since the last meeting, which brings the total to 1,263 for the year.
3. Engine 4012 had its preventative maintenance completed at Fire Apparatus Repair. They were finally able to recreate the power issue when it was returned here. They traced it back to some loose electrical connections and they are in the process of fixing that.
4. On the 25th at 4 o'clock, the Fire Division candidates are coming in for their orientation to start the application process.

5. The Department participated in the Youth Services camp here on July 20th, it was well received. It was a good time all around, and we received good reviews at the graduation on Friday.
6. On Wednesday the 26th, we are having a First Aid class here at the firehouse, at 7 pm.
7. Today, the 4 new full-time EMTs- Taylor Borgstrom, Ashley Bledsoe, Kyra Hendricks, and Matt Taylor, had their orientation. They are scheduled to start their Pittman rotation on July 31st.
8. 4081 is back from getting the AC fixed at EES. They did a great job of diagnosing the problem. Right now, the AC works, however, it is going to be going back to get further work done on the valve that transfers heat and AC to the patient compartment in the future.
9. On tonight's agenda you will see that Unit 6 of the HVAC that we've talked about, has had significant issues and needs to be replaced.
10. The training division has been doing a great job at the acquired structure. Last week we advanced hose lines in the building. All those in attendance had a great experience and it was a great learning opportunity.
11. Battalion Chief Schoen has completed training props that create a maze, which can be moved around. We got to use it during the Youth Services Camp. Participants went in and were able to remove a victim from the maze, and they did a great job with it.
12. We currently have 4 probationary firefighters that begin Firefighter 1 on July 30th. It is 2 nights a week and will conclude on December 16th. Each probationary member has been assigned a Captain to mentor them along on their journey. The group is enthusiastic and has a good work ethic. That's the first step to making a good firefighter for the Fire Department.
13. We have been going to the school district's camp every Thursday. Last week the Rescue Engine went out and showed the kids airbag lifting, and the kids really enjoyed that.
14. National Night Out is August 1st from 1630 to 1930 and we will be participating in that.
15. There are going to be railroad crossing improvements on Dulty's Lane in Burlington Township. The traffic detour will affect Florence because most of the traffic will be sent through Florence. FM Richardson attended that meeting.
16. There were funeral services for Ralph Foulks, who was the oldest living member, and Mickey Marion.
17. We received a notice from the Division of Fire Safety that lithium-ion battery fires are going to be tracked. We now have to notify FM Richardson or the local FM, to investigate those fires.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Closed Session of 7/10/23 discussed UFD Personnel.
2. Closed Session of 7/10/23 discussed EMT interviews.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A motion made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to approve \$ 13,328 to Dowd Mechanical to replace condenser, coil, and furnace for unit 6. Roll call vote: Commissioner Fratinardo – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Yes; Commissioner Ryan – Yes; Commissioner Schoen – Yes; Commissioner Arnold – Yes. The motion carried 5-0-0.

GOOD OF THE BOARD:

Received a thank you letter from John Dulo's family for the department's participation in the funeral services.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

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

Hearing none,

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

CLOSED SESSION:

1. Adopt **RESOLUTION 2023-29 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM MEETING**

A motion was made by Commissioner Popso and seconded by Commissioner Schoen to adopt **RESOLUTION 2023-29 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM MEETING** to discuss personnel, contract, and personnel administrative policies. The motion carried unanimously.

Note: Action may be taken after closed session.

7:08 pm Closed session began.

7:52 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 Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Tharp
Fire District Administrator