

March 27, 2023

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

Meeting ID: 844 6319 7307

Passcode: 474920

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, Andrew Popso, Jason Ryan (virtual), Robert Schoen, and Scott Arnold.

Absent:

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

MINUTES:

Minutes of the previous meeting February March 13, 2023, regular meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Popso and seconded by Commissioner Arnold to approve the minutes of the previous meeting March 13, 2023, regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

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

FIRE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Robert Tharp

1. Reported the Fire Division responded to 37 fire assignments since the last meeting. The EMS Division had responded to 89 assignments since the last meeting.
2. There was a fire at the Fountain of Life Church, which went up to 8 alarms and Station 401 was on scene for 21 hours. It was one of the largest fires in Florence. Throughout the week we have responded to several smoldering areas from the fire. Fire Marshal Richardson has estimated that the total fire loss is around \$20,136,073. A large portion of the complex was saved, the estimated property value that was saved is estimated to be \$11,286,727. Chief Miller arrived first on scene and called for additional help right away. There were no injuries- firefighter or civilian and we thank our mutual aid partners. The fire is still under investigation with Fire Marshal Richardson as lead.

3. On the EMS side, as of the last meeting we have had 89 assignments. Chief Parks has several community initiatives being worked on and completed. He has EMT's certified to teach first aid, adult/child/infant CPR, Stop the Bleed, Child and Babysitting Safety, and more. We will be expanding those classes and offering them to the community as needed.
4. We have reached out to the High School and are working with them to implement some of these classes into a summer camp. They're waiting to for a date to send instructors to the American Heart instructor training class because we only have two American Heart instructors right now.
5. We're going to have our first ever free community CPR class in April. We're currently scheduling classes for CPR and promoting our other classes. We've advertised on the American Heart website for skills only CPR class, which is a hybrid program where students complete all the classroom work, including the test online. We have our first skills only class on March 28th.
6. EMS Chief Parks is preparing for EMS Week, which is May 21st through the 27th, planning events for each day, including stop the Bleed Day, which is on May 25th celebrating the concept and training. EMS Division Chief Parks doing an outstanding job, moving along what we've talked about for the Fire District and delivering EMS to the community.
7. Engine 4012 is back from repairs and back in service. We're still waiting on the brake air tank parts which will be completed in-house. Ambulance 4081 went out for repairs, suspension, and some preventive maintenance.
8. We also sat down as a Command Staff and Fire Officers, and Chief Miller brought up South Ave. response issues. We went out with the Township, met with Ted Lovenduski. Unfortunately, we are unable to widen the street further due to Green Acres property. Instead, there will be a no parking fire zone to allow room for the fire apparatus to navigate those turns.
9. Wednesday evening the fire company will be out at the Fire Academy doing live burns.
10. We have been working with New Jersey Transit and have a light rail training session here on April 9th.
11. We submitted certifications on HAZMAT awareness operations, on scene incident Commander, and other certifications that some members didn't have through the division, they had their training, but they had never applied.
12. Manufacturer representation for capital budget items, as tonight the command vehicle was on the agenda. We also sat down with ESI to make a Holmatro Tool list and a plan on mounting everything on 4011. Same thing with the Power Tech project, we met with Continental Fire Safety to review how we would mount all the equipment that we will be purchasing with the capital appropriations.
13. Policy 321 with the expectations and minimum qualifications of the Volunteer Fire chief is presented on the agenda tonight.
14. We also have a museum addition that was donated to us by the Fisher family, which was facilitated by Toby Houseworth. We now have in the museum the original Class A uniform from Roebling Fire Company #1.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Closed Session from 3/13/23 discussed personnel status.
2. Closed Session from 3/13/23 discussed personnel policy 321.
3. Closed Session from 3/13/23 discussed personnel eligibility for promotional exams.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Popso to approve \$ 7,281.05 payment to PSEG for utilities from 2/4/23-3/13/23. Roll call vote: Commissioner Fratinardo – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Yes; Commissioner Ryan – Yes; Commissioner Schoen – Yes; Commissioner Arnold – Yes. The motion carried 5-0-0.
2. A motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to approve purchase of Command/Support Vehicle approved in Capital Budget from Hertrich Fleet Services State Contact #17-Fleet-00210 T2099 for \$52,704.00. Roll call vote: Commissioner Fratinardo – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Yes; Commissioner Ryan – Yes; Commissioner Schoen – Yes; Commissioner Arnold – Yes. The motion carried 5-0-0.
3. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Popso motion to approve payment of \$ 1,232.47 for fuel from 2/1/23-2/28/23 to Florence Township. Roll call vote: Commissioner Fratinardo – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Yes; Commissioner Ryan – Yes; Commissioner Schoen – Yes; Commissioner Arnold – Yes. The motion carried 5-0-0.
4. A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to approve Resolution 2023-17 Fire District Administrative Policy 321 Minimum Standards and Expectations Volunteer Fire Chief. Roll call vote: Commissioner Fratinardo – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Yes; Commissioner Ryan – Yes; Commissioner Schoen – Yes; Commissioner Taylor – Yes. The motion carried 5-0-0.

GOOD OF THE BOARD:

1. EMS Division provided CPR training to employees of Boyd’s pharmacy.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

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

CLOSED SESSION:

1. Adopt **RESOLUTION 2023-18 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM MEETING**

A motion was made by Commissioner Popso and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adopt **RESOLUTION 2023-18 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 Taylor – Yes. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Note: Action may be taken after closed session.

7:11 pm Closed session began.

7:47 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 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Tharp
Fire District Administrator