

January 8, 2018

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 8, 2018

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 sent to and published in the Burlington County Times and the Trenton Times. It has also been posted at the township municipal building and on the fire district’s website.”

ROLL CALL: Present – Charles Bauer, John Fratinardo, and Robert Schoen. **Absent** – William Berry and Andrew Popso

Also in attendance were Chief Kevin Mullen, Battalion Chief Steve Taylor, Captain Joe Wargo, Captain Kara Ekelburg, Lieutenant Ken Cunningham, Lieutenant Robert Reillo, Lieutenant Brian Schwarz, and Fire Marshal Brian Richardson.

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

The following were sworn in by Mayor Craig Wilkie. Deputy Chief Keith Scully, Fire Battalion Chief Steve Taylor, Fire Captain Joe Wargo, EMS Captain Kara Ekelburg, Fire Lieutenant Ken Cunningham, EMS Lieutenant Robert Reillo, and EMS Lieutenant Brian Schwarz.

AUDITORS REPORT: (Rob Inverso)

1. No report.

SOLICITOR:

1. No report.

CHIEF’S REPORT: Chief Mullen submitted his report to the Board via email.

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION/MAINTENANCE: No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel:

1. No report.

5-Year Planning:

1. Commissioner Schoen said there is no report.

Building and Grounds:

1. No report

Insurance:

Purchases:

1. A list was emailed to the Board.

Policy:

1. None.

Fire Company Liaison:

1. None.

Radio:

1. None.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

1. None

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Chief Mullen reported the District received an email from Melissa Ford, DCA Local Government Service, which stated the District could proceed with the adoption of the 2018 Budget.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to pay all the bills with the exception of PSE&G and Verizon bills. Motion carried unanimously.
2. A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to pay the PSE&G bill. Motion carried unanimously.
3. A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo pay the Verizon bill. Commissioner Berry abstained. Motion carried unanimously.
4. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo and seconded by Commissioner Bauer to pay the BB&T bill. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT:

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to approve the treasurer's report as received. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rescue 4018 – A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer, seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to sell Rescue 4018 to Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus for \$32,500. Motion carried.

2. Retired Ambulance 4081 – Chief Mullen reported the unit is on Govdeals.com until January 22, 2018.

2018 BUDGET HEARING

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer, seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried.

Chief Mullen gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached) on the 2018 Budget. Mayor Wilkie. Mayor Wilkie said “Chief, I want to comment, nothing against you but the records up there about the PILOT. There is no PILOT money that goes out to anybody, that is a revenue into the Township. The Township began as you know, over the past couple of years given you a contribution directly, in fact we actually started with the schools before we did the District because there was no provision in municipal government to allow any transfer directly. I mean we have purchased in behalf of the fire company a snow plow, some additional equipment for the sidewalk. Although the Township had no direct connection, because we were not allowed to do that, Liberty who developed the Amazon Building did take away the three drainage fields. That was a value of about \$200,000 by their account which gave us as a fire district something you normally can’t get, usable land. So, I just need to clarify that the new businesses that are paying PILOT’s have made partnership with the Fire District. You guys have shared with some things with me Amazon has given and told me what B&H is doing. So I need to clarify from that end and I will go forward on record again I suggested you put in place on the fire, much like you have on EMS, so that if you have a fire, you can bill, much like the guy on Route 130, the Christmas Tree Shoppes. I don’t know the process but as I suggested to you, do a similar type of thing and bill those guys. Over here you are constantly getting calls, put a billing thing in place and collect on it. Commissioner Bauer said “We mayor, in answer to that it is going to be kind of tough to bill the big people on the fire end of it because you know we got pump outs, you know we got a lot of things we do. We certainly could bill because we do their tax money. I understand that I will say for the record, the place behind us here, we do have a lot of EMS calls over there. I believe the Chief is working on it to see how we can cut that down. Because the problem for me is when we go out there, they have a full, I guess EMS business out there. We go out there, then we get a call across the street at Tollgate for a second rig, then somebody else has to come in. The thing is I notice, there is quite a few calls behind us without mentioning any names in public. Mayor Wilkie said “I sat in on the 5-year Planning Committee meeting and that had been brought up. I said bring it to the Township’s attention and we need to take “our influence” involved into it. Regarding the fire recovery, it’s the same (inaudible) as EMS. It’s making a deal with the company to turn around and handle the billing. You get a major fire, they go after the homeowners insurance. I’m not just talking about going after the big guys but the ability to recover. Where are you going to spend most of your time, the big guys. (inaudible). I don’t know the answers. I saw an opportunity to bring in additional revenue. The ratables haven’t really gone up. It is not so much as the building projects going on. We did a re-assessment in 2008/2009 and the economy sank. That brought homes a lower value. The when had to do, it is the wrong term to do a revaluation because a revaluation does the entire community. The tax assessor through sales can go ahead and do

regions, 2 different areas. So that Mallard Creek, Greenbriar, the Manors, the Estates, I think the village of Roebing, was done and maybe downtown Florence. I'm not sure Woodlawn to Broad has been done which has lowered the values based on what the current sales are. We are now seeing a little bit of an uplift. There are some townhomes that were approved last fall by the Planning Board and that will be 10 to 15 million in ratable and there are some other projects going on that will bring in ratable increase as well. (Inaudible). They would be apartments out by the WAWA and they will be ratable (inaudible). They will be townhomes and they will be 10 to 15 million dollars.

2. A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer, seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to close the meeting to the public. Motion carried.
3. A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer, seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adopt Resolution 2018-01 2018 Budget Resolution. Roll call vote: Commissioner Bauer – Yes; Commissioner Berry – Absent; Commissioner Fratinardo – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Absent; and Commissioner Schoen – Yes. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve bond payment - \$39,215.63. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo, seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the bond payment. Motion carried.
2. Approve quarterly volunteer incentive payment per policy. A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer, seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to approve the quarterly volunteer incentive payment per policy. Motion carried.
3. Approve cell phone plan with Verizon for one phone. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo, seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve a cell phone plan with Verizon for one phone. Motion carried.
4. Approve Chief to write FEMA grant for vehicle stabilization equipment and additional rescue tools. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo, seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the Chief to write a FEMA grant for vehicle stabilization equipment and additional rescue tools. Motion carried.
5. Approve to purchase new Positive Pressure Fan – not to exceed \$3700.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo, seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve the Chief to purchase a new positive pressure fan, not to exceed \$3700.00. Motion carried.
6. Approve agreement with Phoenix Advisors to manage secondary market disclosure obligations. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo, seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve an agreement with Phoenix Advisors to manage secondary market disclosure obligations. Motion carried.
7. Approve to transfer the Maxim to the Florence Township Volunteer Fire Company No. 1. A motion was made by Commissioner Fratinardo, seconded by Commissioner Bauer to approve to transfer the Maxim to the Florence Township Volunteer Fire Company No. 1. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Bauer said he received a question about the status of the new truck. Battalion asked to respond. He stated he met with the Chief on December 28 to discuss the status of the new truck and came up with a January 15th in service date. He added we are in the process of training our operators and are more than ½ way complete but the cold weather has delayed our training. Commissioner Schoen stated we can pump in cold weather but would

leave that area a mess. Commission Bauer asked if the truck was still under warranty. Chief Mullen replied some parts yes, some no.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

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

No comments.

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

CLOSED SESSION:

1. Adopt RESOLUTION 2018-2 – CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adopt RESOLUTION 2018-2 – CLOSED SESSION. Roll call vote: Commissioner Bauer – Yes; Commissioner Berry – Absent; Commissioner Fratinardo – Yes; Commissioner Popso – Absent; and Commissioner Schoen – Yes. Motion carried 3-0.

2. A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adjourn closed session. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Commissioner Bauer read a change to Policy 320, the section titled Officer Stipends. The change is “All department officers shall be given a stipend for the year they hold a line officer position. The amount of the stipend will be determined by the Board on or before the February regular meeting. All career positions will be determined by contracts with the Board. The stipend will be payable in the months of June and December the year the office was held. Acting Officers shall not receive an Officer Stipend.

All officers will be reviewed every 6 months by the Chief and the Chairman of the Board or his designee to see if the officers are upholding their duties and responsibilities within this policy and tasks or assignments that have been assigned to them for the year by the Chief.

The stipends maybe withheld or reduced, if the Chief or the Board feels that the officer has not upheld his/her duties, responsibilities and or tasks that were assigned by the Chief.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer, seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adopt change to Policy 320, Officer Stipends. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Commissioner Bauer read the officers’ salaries for 2018 (attached). A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer, seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adopt the Officers’ Salaries for 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Fratinardo to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Mullen