

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

**Tinton Falls Fire Districts 1 and 2**

**Tinton Falls NJ**

The Joint District Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Calvo at 7:05

Attorney Braslow stated all requirements of the Open Public Meeting Laws have been met. Pursuant to the Public Meeting Act of Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, adequate notice of this meeting has been given by advertising in The Coaster and The Two River Times, and by posting on the bulletin board in the Tinton Falls Borough Hall, and placed on file with the Borough Clerk 48 hours prior to this meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-**

**ROLL CALL-**

District 1: Bowles-present, Calvo-present, Costa-present, Hawkins-present, Kinston-present.

District 2: Hamilton-present, Lewis-excused, Maclearie-present, Neis-excused, Park-present.

Attorney Braslow-present.

Commissioner Calvo stated that this was our 3<sup>rd</sup> joint meeting, and hopefully we can get some things accomplished.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Moving Fire District Elections to November-** Would take place as of January 1, 2019. Attorney Braslow stated district boundaries align with voting boundaries. He has a meeting about this on November 6<sup>th</sup>, and will report back after the meeting. We would need to adopt a Resolution no later than December 2018 in order for 2019 elections to be moved to November. If a decision is not made in December 2018, districts are able to decide in future years as long as a resolution is passed by December 1<sup>st</sup> in the year prior to when the change will take effect. Once a decision to move elections to November is made, the DCA will not allow elections to be moved back to February for any reason. Each district is able to decide on their own if they wish to move to November, and the move to November does not have to be done by both districts at the same time. Would only implement if both Fire Companies agree. Commissioner Maclearie asked what the "pros" would be. Attorney Braslow stated there would be greater participation therefore more voters, and no election costs. The County will reconfigure the ballots. Commissioner Hamilton had zoning concerns. Attorney Braslow stated that the County will figure it all out as far as the breakdown of districts. Commissioner Calvo stated District #1 has talked about switching to November and is leaning in that direction although no final decision has been made yet.

**Discussion on joint purchasing on items such as gear, SCBA bottles, annual hose/pump/ladder tests-**

Commissioner Calvo stated that some joint purchases may make sense in that we could probably get a discount. Some things like ERS and HALLIGAN there is no way to conserve costs. He stated that we saved

about 50% on Who's Responding. Commissioner Maclearie stated he agreed that this would be a good idea. Discussion on large upcoming purchases that are needed. Commissioner Calvo stated District #1 needs to purchase a good amount of gear and we will also be needing dual band radios. Commissioner Kingston stated District #1's SCBA bottles are good for another 10 years. Commissioner Maclearie stated they have been purchasing 5 or 6 sets of gear a year, but that they need to outfit Northside with new SCBA. They also need new radios and pagers in the next few years. Commissioners Calvo and Maclearie also spoke of perhaps coordinating our grants together.

**Joint Training Calendar/Training Events-** Commissioner Kingston spoke about making sure our firefighters are getting the training that they need, keeping them up to date and safe. Perhaps we can open up Joint Training to both Districts. Commissioner Calvo asked District #2 how they felt about opening up training to both districts. District #2 stated they were very open to it. They said each station is on their own and they report on their training each month. Commissioner Maclearie stated Joint Training would be the way to go. Commissioner Calvo spoke about having a District Training individual to coordinate and schedule classes. Commissioner Kingston suggested sign ups beforehand. Chief Lay mentioned, as far as Joint Training, that smaller groups are much more manageable. Hard to gauge whether 30 or 3 firefighters will show up. He also stated lesson plans need to be backed up by policy. Commissioner Kingston also stated that all of the Fire Companies that respond together need to be on the same page tactic-wise, which will open up communication lines between companies. Attorney Braslow stated it is not uncommon to have Standard Procedures. Commissioner Costa stated that we should do what New Jersey says we need to do. Quarterly training for Structural Firefighters and once a year for exterior firefighters. He feels we do not need to over regulate.

**Creation of Borough-wide Chief/Deputy Chiefs-** Commissioner Calvo stated currently we have 8 Borough Vehicles and asked everyone's thoughts on possibly having 1 Borough-Wide Chief and each Company having its own Captain. Commissioner Park stated it makes sense on a grand scheme. Commissioner Hawkins stated he thinks it is premature to do before a merger happens. Each Firehouse should bring it up for discussion and we should have another joint meeting in 60-90 days to discuss. Commissioner Maclearie stated he thinks one firehouse will like the idea, and that the other will be adamantly opposed to it. Chief Aaron Lay came up with a preliminary idea and had a computer generated chart of his ideas. One Chief Borough wide for both Districts, and 4 Deputy Chiefs for each Firehouse.

**Audience Participation-Lieutenant-District #1** Lieutenant Kyle Williams asked how Commissioners and others felt about merging Districts 1 and 2. Wayside Fire Company President Aaron Brawner stated he thought there should be a vote on it, because we keep talking about it and nothing is ever done. He said there will inevitably be hurt feelings, we all know that. Chief Chervinsky stated we don't exactly know what we are merging.....apparatus? Firefighters? Buildings? Commissioner Hawkins stated this isn't going to happen overnight. We threw it out to Fire Companies as a courtesy to see how everyone felt about it. We now have a footprint with Chief Lay's chart. He felt some progress is being made. Stated let's focus on the operational side of both districts. Commissioner Park stated we should all keep in mind this is for the benefit of serving our town better. Commissioner Costa stated next meeting we should have a formal vote so that we can put this on the record. Attorney Braslow stated that mergers are not easy. Town wants to hear dialogue. Lieutenant Dan Evankow asked about the possibility of the Districts creating a paid position for a Training Officer. Would schedule training 6 months to a year in advance. He feels joint training would build comradery. Commissioner Calvo stated we would be open to that. Commissioner Maclearie spoke

of the 4 sub issues of tonight's meetings. 1) STANDARD SOG/SOPS 2) STANDARDIZED TRAINING 3) JOINT PURCHASING 4) POTENTIAL CONSOLIDATION OF LINE OFFICERS.

**Fire District Survey-** It was agreed that after the meeting, a three question survey will be sent to all members of the four borough stations. The questions will ask for members thoughts on: 1) Joint training between all four stations. 2) Combining the line officers from all four stations to make a borough-wide chief/deputy chief. 3) Standardization of SOPs/SOGs between all four stations and the two districts in the borough. The survey will be open until November 6<sup>th</sup> and at that time the results will be sent to the Commissioners, for them to review and share with the members/chiefs of the individual stations. The results of the survey will also be reviewed at the next Joint District Meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**Best Practices Meeting with Borough-** Commissioner Costa brought up how the Borough Council will be reaching out to both Districts after the beginning of 2018 to schedule a meeting. The scheduling of the meeting is required by the DCA's "Best Practices Program".

Commissioner Calvo made a motion to meet again Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:00 PM at Wayside Fire Company, 2 Volunteer Way, Tinton Falls, NJ 07753. Attorney Braslow will make the required notifications to the newspapers and borough clerk. Motion was made by Commissioner Maclearie and seconded by Commissioner Hawkins.

**Adjournment-** Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Hawkins and seconded by Commissioner Kingston. Meeting was adjourned at 8:43PM.