

TINTON FALLS BOROUGH COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 20, 2018

ROLL CALL

FIRE DISTRICT #1- Bowles-present, Calvo-present, Costa-excused, Hawkins-present, Kingston-excused.

FIRE DISTRICT #2- Hamilton-present, Lewis-present, MacClearie-present, Nies-excused, Park-present.

FIRE Districts #1 & #2 ATTORNEY- Richard Braslow- present.

District 1 and 2 Commissioners and Attorney Braslow were invited up to sit before the Council.

Councilman began by saying that a debt of gratitude was given to all Fire Departments for the great job they do to protect our city.

Tyler Hawkins, son of Fire District #1 Commissioner Skip Hawkins received a citation for his quick thinking and brave actions during a fire in the Borough in December 2017.

Attorney Braslow spoke on behalf of both Fire Districts.

Fire District #1 President Andrew Calvo addressed the Council. Calvo, explained how both districts are looking for ways to better manage and perhaps merge Districts 1 and 2. Looking into perhaps minimizing our Line Officers, which in turn would reduce the amount of Fire District Vehicles currently being used. These changes could possibly save the residents money.

Calvo explained that New Jersey has written legislation to allow Fire Districts to move their election dates from February to November. This would move the District Elections from the Saturday of Presidents Weekend to the same day as the Regular Elections in November. Both Fire Districts are weighing the positives and negatives of these potential changes.

Positives: There would be greater voter turnout if the elections were held in November. In a Borough of 17,000, District #1 had 99 voters this year and District #2 had 140.

Negatives: Having Elections in November can potentially make them more political. Fire District Elections are Non-Partisan and politics has never played a part thus far. These are all things to take into consideration. The deadline to decide is not until December 2018, for 2019, although the districts are able to make the decision at anytime after that for the following years election. Once a decision has been made to change the date, it is not possible to switch back to February.

Attorney Braslow stated the Fire Service never asked for the 3rd Saturday of February to become the standard Fire Election date. The Fire Service has lobbied for this bill which would go into effect 01/01/2019. Final regulations will be promulgated by Summer of 2018. If the districts were to move their elections to November, all that would be required is a Resolution and notification to the county clerks office. Any Commissioners terms would be extended to carry over until the November Election. Attorney

Braslow also stated that if the Election date moves, the budget will not be voted on unless there is a move to exceed the state mandate on expenditures, this is similar to how school boards currently operate.

Council member stated that the reputation and efficiency of both Fire Districts were very good.

Council member asked when the consolidation/merger might take place? Fire District #2 Commissioner MacClearie stated that this is a “work in progress” and that we still have a lot of homework to do. Once the wheels are in motion, there is no going back. He stated that no deadline for making those decisions has been made.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion to close the Workshop Meeting was made by Fire District #2 Commissioner Pete MacClearie and seconded by Fire District #1 Commissioner Skip Hawkins. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.