

**TINTON FALLS FIRE DISTRICT #1**

**WORKSHOP MEETING**

**OCTOBER 21, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER-** The Workshop Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order by President Costa at 7:01 pm.

**ANNOUNCEMENT-** Attorney Braslow advised the Board that all requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act of Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, adequate notice of this meeting had been met by advertising in The Coaster and The Asbury Park Press, 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.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL-** Bowles- excused      Chervinsky-present      Costa-present

Harris-present      Hawkins-present      Attorney Braslow-phone

President spoke to the attendees of the meeting in reference to the topic of merging two fire districts into one fire district. Members were present from both Tinton Falls fire districts. The President stated there have been two fire districts since 1987. Negotiation of funding and the difference in ratables on each side of town would go away with one district. It would be one board and the board could not exist without fire companies and members. The community may best be service by one fire district. Fire service agreements with each fire company would still be required.

At this time, the districts are based on an older signed agreement and the fire department response zones at the time. No one anticipated Fort Monmouth closing and the future need of volunteer members. It would take a least a year to work out the kinks, fears and agreements. It is difficult to move a “map line” on a district.

Commissioner Hawkins inquired as to what the flow chart would look like? Where does it start and how would a merger flow?

A member of District #1 discussed the finance side. The current ratable differences are noticeable. A merger would give parity to the residents.

Commissioner Harris brought up that this topic was been around for the past ten years. The last time this topic was really discussed was in 2014 and nothing has moved since.

Audience member asked that if money is the bottom line then the inequities need to be figured out, but the bottom line is that volunteers are needed to fill the ranks.

Attorney Braslow spoke about consolidation and stated there are two driving issues:

- 1) Is there guaranteed savings? (one board, one attorney/audit/advertising costs)
- 2) Would it create more effective and proficient service?

The Board would still have five commissioners. The entire borough would have opportunity to represent the Board no matter which part of the borough a person lives.

The main question is: Is there a compelling reason to make one district? If not, why would a member bring it back to their company for consideration.

Discussion from audience included the question of merging companies or supplementing. Money is not going to bring out firefighters to respond to calls, but we need more volunteers.

It was decided that the four fire companies need to go back and figure out their concerns and questions for future discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Motion to adjourn the Workshop Meeting was made by Commissioner Costa and seconded by Commissioner Chervinsky. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.