

TINTON FALLS FIRE DISTRICT #1

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 13, 2023

CALL TO ORDER- The Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order by Vice President Matthews at 7:31 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENT- Attorney Braslow advised the Board that all requirements of the Open Public Meeting Laws had been met. Pursuant to the 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- Costa – present Estelle – present Furman – present

Mack – present Matthews-present Attorney Braslow- present (phone)

REORGANIZATION -

Mr. Braslow took over the meeting for the reorganization. A motion was made by Commissioner Mack to appoint the following Board positions:

President: Michael Matthew

Vice President: John Mack

Secretary: Cary Costa

Treasurer: Michael Estelle

Asst Secretary / Asst Treasurer: William Furman

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Estelle, all in favor.

Motion made by Commissioner Costa to retain the same attorney, auditor and newspapers as in 2023; authorizing budget transfers and adoption of temporary budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Estelle, all present in favor.

Commissioner Costa made a motion to open the public hearing in reference to the resolution authorizing the capital purchase of a chief's vehicle. Motion seconded by Commissioner Estelle, all in favor.

Mr. Braslow asked if there were any questions or comments by any members of the public attending the meeting. There were no comments.

Motion made by Commissioner Costa to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Commissioner Estelle, all in favor.

BUDGET INTRODUCTION -

Motion made by Commissioner Costa to Introduce the 2024 Budget. Motion seconded by Commissioner Estelle, all in favor.

There will be a public hearing at the next meeting, January 18, 2024, for comments and questions.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES- Motion to approve the minutes of the Workshop Meeting Minutes and Regular Meeting Minutes from November 16, 2023, was made by Commissioner Furman and seconded by Commissioner Matthews. No other Commissioners were present at the November meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Bills were read at the Workshop Meeting. Motion to pay the bills was made by Commissioner Estelle and seconded by Commissioner Mack. All present in favor.

CHIEF'S REPORT- Report covered at Workshop meeting.

Commissioner Estelle made a motion to conditionally approve Nicholas Bianchi as a member of Wayside Fire Company until such time the fingerprint results are returned. Motion seconded by Commissioner Mack. All present in favor.

NEW BUSINESS - There is speculation that a person in Station 3 may be interested in running for Chief. Mr. Wright spoke with Commissioner Mack regarding the

same. Discussion followed. No one was physically present at the meeting to inquire about a position. There are only two candidates eligible from Station #3 as per District policy. In the past, a previous Chief filled the position when there was a spot, and this person did not meet the policies at the time. Mr. Harris joined the meeting via phone.

Commissioner Costa feels that the District should go back to two chiefs – one from each company and the District would be out of the mix. If the Chief is to receive their stipend, they must complete the policy requirements.

Chief Williams feels the District Chief program is running fine. Commissioner Furman noted the liability is with the fire company appointing the Chief. The District would take responsibility and figure out the issues. Commissioner Mack had previously met with personnel and discussed some issues. Mr. Harris understands that the last company chief resigned mid-year, but that should not hinder Station 3 from having Chief. The previous policy of each station having a chief worked fine. Commissioner Estelle asked what happens if the Chiefs are split. What is the benefit to the District.

Discussion followed on previous precedent in having a person fill the chief position who did not meet requirements. Commissioner Matthews discussed the position and updated training requirements. Mr. Braslow stated there would have to be proposed amendments and go back to the statute that says each company can elect their own chief. Mr. Harris reminded the audience that the Board at the time was heavily pushing merging Chiefs and was heavily addressed at meetings. But now there is a new Board to discuss this issue and possibly make some amendments to the policy.

Commissioner Estelle discussed the participation of Station 3 as to why the bylaws should be amended. No guarantee of participation. Commissioner Costa says the original intent was for all four companies to follow the same line up and the other district has not followed suit.

The Board needs to consider the positive and the negative. Commissioner Costa made a motion to delete any reference to District Chief in policies/procedures. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Furman. Vote: Estelle – no; Furman – yes; Costa-yes; Mack-no; Matthews-no. Motion does not carry.

OLD BUSINESS - Discussion on MOU with Monmouth County for Chief's vehicle usage. Mr. Braslow has no issue with the concept but wants to make sure the District is fully protected in case of accident. Mr. Braslow given County contact so he may make further inquiries.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS- No communications to be read.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION- Chief Williams obtained a quote for harassment training along with lock out / tag out training. He will forward it to the Board for review.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Costa and seconded by Commissioner Estelle. All present in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.