

# **TINTON FALLS FIRE DISTRICT #1**

## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**JANUARY 18, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER-** The Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order by President Matthews at 7:30 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)

Kathy Strack, accountant for the District, joined the meeting by phone.

### **2024 BUDGET HEARING -**

Motion made by Commissioner Estelle to open the budget hearing for the adoption of the 2024 budget. Motion seconded by Commissioner Costa, all in favor.

President Matthews asked if there were any questions or comments on the 2024 District Budget by the members of the Board or the audience. No questions or comments were presented.

Motion made by Commissioner Costa to adopt the 2024 Budget. Motion seconded by Commissioner Estelle. Roll call vote: Costa-yes; Estelle-yes; Furman-yes; Mack-yes; Matthews-yes.

(Kathy Strack left the meeting)

**APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES-** Motion to approve the minutes of the Workshop Meeting Minutes and Regular Meeting Minutes from December 13, 2023, was made by Commissioner Mack and seconded by Commissioner Furman. All present in favor.

**TREASURER'S REPORT-** Treasurer's report was read by Commissioner Estelle. 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.

The equipment list was discussed, and quotes will be obtained from vendors. We can utilize a purchasing cooperative.

Discussion held on 2010 Tahoe and resolution.

Motion made by Commissioner Estelle to dispose of personal property, a 2010 Tahoe. Motion seconded by Commissioner Costa, all in favor.

Discussion was held on a proposal to not require signatures on purchase orders as per a new rule passed by the State. Payments made for stipends or to personnel will still require signatures. Motion made by Commissioner Estelle to pass the resolution in allowing non-necessity of a signature on a purchase order except in the payments directly to personnel of the District. Motion seconded by Commissioner Mack, all in favor.

Motion by Commissioner Costa to approve the same insurance vendors as previously used to provide District worker's compensation insurance, vehicle insurance, accident/sickness insurance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Estelle, all in favor.

Motion made by Commissioner Estelle to approve TruGreen to provide fertilizer service for the year 2024 for the cost of \$1,404. Motion seconded by Commissioner Furman, all in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS** - Commissioner Mack is working on quotes for lawn cutting services for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Costa discussed a recent seminar he attended on ESS – electric energy systems. There are specialized containers for all different sizes of battery used for disposal. It was discussed that a fire involving lithium-ion batteries becomes a hazardous materials incident, and would Monmouth County HazMat have the items in their toolbox to handle these types of incidents? Discussion followed on specialized nozzles and having enough water to fight an EV fire on GSP or Route 18. Neptune Special Services has agreements to handle these types of calls. Asbury Park has used Neptune in the past. The District needs to consider the car dealerships, Amazon warehouses, parking garages. The discussion will need to continue.

Commissioner Mack brought up that the District was contacted for utilizing a fire apparatus for a strong man competition/truck pull. The Board has no issue, and a hold harmless agreement must be signed. Mr. Braslow wants to review any paperwork they provide.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Commissioner Estelle began the discussion on staffing issues within both Districts and the possibility of having full-time/per-diem personnel. What kind of policy would need to be developed. Commissioner Furman asked if a per diem program had any compliance requirements for gear and/or equipment. There was discussion on equipment checks and no engineer stipend was paid last year. Is the other District on-board?

Other questions discussed included would this type of program reduce the volunteer? Do mutual aid companies still respond? Are the paid staff allowed out of town? How many other towns are putting on per-diems? Neptune is cutting personnel, and they are paying volunteers to sit in the building. Full-time personnel would come with benefits/pension expenses. Who would manage the program? Tax rate was discussed. Policies and procedures would need to be developed before implementation of a program.

Commissioner Mack inquired on each Commissioner's feeling on this subject. Mr. Braslow feels that the Board of District #1 needs to meet with the Board of District #2 to discuss. This will be arranged soon.

There was a discussion about volunteer recruitment in the area of Station 3. There are signs near the firehouse.

Commissioner Estelle thanked the Captains for coming to the meeting and please make sure there is a representative at upcoming meetings.

Mr. Brawner stated that the District should consider a program, and that Commissioner Costa brought up some good points for discussion. The program would need to consider personnel pool management, restricted hours, compliance with crew size. Could be complaint with 2-in/2-out rule with a chief on location.

Maybe the District should try something out for a year to see if it works. Possibly a "paid" driver.

Mr. Braslow will work on setting up a meeting with District #2. He feels that this would be a good start.

**READING OF COMMUNICATIONS-** No communications to be read.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION-** No items brought up for discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Estelle and seconded by Commissioner Costa. All present in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

## **TINTON FALLS FIRE DISTRICT #1**

**TREASURER’S REPORT  
JANUARY 18, 2024**

**TOTAL OF THE BILLS \$ 128,562.58 WHICH INCLUDES:**

Airpower International	Repair to cascade system not covered by contract (parts)	\$ 120.00
AmTrust North America	Worker’s Comp Insurance	\$ 3,914.00
Richard Braslow	Professional fees	\$ 1,550.00
Comcast	Cable	\$ 63.88
A Calvo	Reimbursement for Carbonite backup software for QuickBooks	\$ 191.98
Building Security Services and Systems	Annual OpenPath Agreement - 2024	\$ 2,400.00
Defender Emergency	Repairs to 36-2-90 and 36-3-76	\$ 5,499.46
E-ZPass	Replenish account	\$ 100.00
Gannett NY/NJ	Legal notices	\$ 42.24
Gear Wash – NY	Repairs to turnout coat	\$ 666.56
Grainger	Hose reel, small engine fuel, three water extinguishers	\$ 1,368.47
JCPL	Electric bill	\$ 251.04
Motorola Solutions	Partial shipment of radio order	\$ 3,192.00
NJ American Water	Hydrants	\$ 21,204.00
NJ Natural Gas	Natural gas bill	\$ 8.32
Peb’s Floors	Weekly building cleaning services	\$ 390.00
Ricoh USA	Printer / Copier	\$ 206.84
Seaboard Welding Supply	Cylinder rental	\$ 25.75
TG Technical Services	Battery for multi-gas meter	\$ 146.36
The New Coaster	Legal publication	\$ 7.75
Twin Rock Water	Monthly water delivery	\$ 107.88
Verizon (2)	Monthly phone/internet	\$ 269.37
Western Pest	Monthly pest control	\$ 74.24
Winner Ford	2023 Ford F250 P/U truck	\$ 83,211.00
Zach’s Services	Lawn cutting (Nov 2023)	\$ 520.00

(a/o 01/14/2024)

**CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE: \$ 2,349,491.93**  
**INTEREST EARNED: \$ 1,659.11**  
**MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT BALANCE: \$ 641,269.46**  
**INTEREST EARNED: \$ 526.85**  
**PAYROLL ACCOUNT: \$ 9,931.53**

***Respectfully Submitted, Michael Estelle, Treasurer***