

The Board of Fire Commissioner, Gloucester Township Fire District # 4 held a Regular Meeting on January 17, 2024. The meeting was held at Blackwood Fire Company, 14 W. Central Avenue, Blackwood, NJ 08012. This meeting has been properly advertised according to the State of New Jersey Sunshine Laws.

COMMISSIONERS: D. Vannoni, M. Cristella, J. Vannoni, M. Jones,

ATTENDEES: IAFF President Kemery, Chief Imielinski, FM Urso

Commissioner D. Vannoni said the Board was going to change the order of business, as an amendment and resolution for the adoption of the 2024 Budget will be the first order of business.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Cristella to pass a resolution to amend the 2024 budget. The amount of unrestricted fund balance to be utilized went from \$111,011.62 to \$111,950.62, a difference of \$939.00. All in favor, motion carries.

ROLL CALL: D. Vannoni-yes, M. Cristella-Yes, J. Vannoni-yes, M. Jones-yes, J. McCann-absent

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Cristella to pass a resolution to adopt the 2024 budget. All in favor, motion carries.

ROLL CALL: D. Vannoni-yes, M. Cristella-yes, J. Vannoni-yes, M. Jones-yes, J. McCann-yes

Back to regular order of business.

Motion by Commissioner J. Vannoni, second by Commissioner Jones, to pass a resolution making Interstate Mobile the medical provider for pre-employment and employment physicals, due to Inspira no longer providing those services.
All in favor, motion carries.

ROLL CALL: D. Vannoni-yes, M. Cristella-yes, J. Vannoni-yes, M. Jones-yes, J. McCann-yes

Motion by Commssioner Jones, second by Commissioner Cristella to approve the Year End meeting minutes of 12.28.23. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Cristella to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of 12.20.2023. All in favor, motion carries.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Jones reported that (12) Scott Air Packs with (12) bottles were sold to Dival Safety Equipment for a store credit of \$36,000.00.

Motion by Commissioner Cristella, second by Commissioner Jones to accept the bill of sale from Dival for the sale of (12) Scott Air Packs and (12) bottles for a store credit of \$36,000.00 with Dival Safety Equipment. All in favor, motion carries.

Commissioner Cristella reported that improvements to BCR are continuing. The new gear racks will be coming in, and will be installed by the career staff.

He also reported, that snow was not removed during the last snowfall. Commissioner Jones stated FAM Prendergast was on vacation. Commissioner J. Vannoni stated it was removed in the afternoon.

Commissioner D. Vannoni stated we have a 24-hour crew, why are we paying the FAM overtime to come in and plow snow. He said this topic came up a few years back.

Commissioner Jones said it will leave the crew with 3, and there have been discussions on ripping the crew apart.

IAFF President said when he worked here, all the career employees were crossed trained so anyone could operate the plow.

Commissioner J. Vannoni said he came up, the snow was not plowed, he spoke to FM Urso, and FF Woods, at that time FAM Prendergast pulled up, and he said he spoke to Commissioner Jones. Commissioner Jones has always handled this. He suggested that the topic be brought up at the OPS Meeting so we can have a resolution to the issue. He does not remember what transpired when it was discussed before.

Commissioner D. Vannoni stated that Platoon B is working on Friday, so they will be plowing the lots. He said moving forward, it needs to be discussed at the OPS Meeting, so the issue can be resolved.

Commissioner D. Vannoni stated Ryan made some minor upgrades to the computers, and Wendy Reached out to him for some issue in the office. He has been working on the yearend report for the Bureau of Fire Prevention, and the new system has proved to be interesting.

CLERK'S REPORT: Attached.

Commissioner D. Vannoni stated only 2 candidates are running for election on February 17, 2024. D. Vannoni, and J. Vannoni. The clerk has requested hiring Isabelle Miller to be the election helper, at a cost of \$150.00. He noted, District # 4 will not be using machines, due to the fact the election is uncontested.

Motion by Commissioner J. Vannoni, second by Commissioner Jones to approve Isabelle Miller as the election worker for the 2024 election at a cost of \$150.00. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner McCann, second by Commissioner J. Vannoni to accept the 2023 LOSAP list. All in favor, motion carries.

Commissioner added the CPI numbers are not available at this time, which can be used to determine the yearly contribution for members who qualify for LOSAP.

FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT: Attached

CAPTAIN'S REPORT: None

The Clerk stated the only thing he wanted to report was the Air Pack sale to Dival.

FAM REPORT: None

CHIEF'S REPORT: Attached

Commissioner Cristella questioned the part of the Chief's report that asks about moving the career staff's 2nd set of gear to another rack on the other wall, and use that rack for a driver's only rack.

Commissioner J. Vannoni said this needs to be discussed as a group, and then the Chief can explain what he is looking to do.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Attached

Commissioner D. Vannoni had a question on the President's report. He wondered if there was any further news on the investigation of BFC dishonest Treasurer.

Commissioner Jones said the last he heard was from former President Stott, and he said he keeps trying to contact the prosecutor's office, and has received no response.

The Clerk said she received a registered piece of mail for Blackwood Fire Company, that had come from the prosecutor's office.

Commissioner Vannoni said that was for him, and it has nothing to do with the issue we were discussing.

Commissioner Jones stated he spoke to Commissioner J. Vannoni concerning the building generator, and the FAM will continue to work on the generator, as its within his scope of work.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Motion by Commissioner McCann, second by Commissioner Cristella to pay the January bills in the amount of \$50,985.78. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Cristella to accept all reports as read. All in favor, motion carries.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Commissioner McCann, second by Commissioner Cristella to approve the application of Samahd Callender, with the 6-month probationary period. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion by J. McCann, second by Commissioner J. Vannoni to accept the application of John Magee, contingent upon him passing his physical, and with the 6-month probationary period. All in favor, motion carries.

Commissioner J. Vannoni said he spoke to him this afternoon, and he said he would get his physical this week.

Commissioner McCann asked if the Board could be notified when he passes his physical.

Commissioner D. Vannoni said he was always with the understanding that all the career staff were EMT certified. He acknowledges he was wrong. He believes that should be a requirement. He went on to say we reimbursed a member \$1231.00 for the class, plus gave him 75.88 hours of comp for attending the class, and he did not renew his certification. He said that disturbs him.

Currently, there are only 2 certified EMT'S FM Urso, and FF O'Connor.

Commissioner D. Vannoni said for years and years, all of our personnel had at least 1st Responder, but the State did away with that program. You have EMT or nothing.

IAFF President stated he is with the understanding it is coming back, and currently Runnemedede Fire Department has 1st Responders.

Commissioner D. Vannoni said he wanted everyone to know, if you were EMT certified, you only need a refresher course to be certified again.

Commissioner MCAnn said he thinks it is contractually.

Commissioner D. Vannoni said it is not, the contract only states the stipend, does not state if they have to be an EMT. It would be a contractual issue that would have to be negotiated.

Commissioner J. Vannoni said the Board needs to decide what we want moving forward, and document that.

Commissioner D. Vannoni no matter what the Board decides, it just irks him we pay for the class, give comp time for attending and they just decide not to renew their certification. We also pay for them to re-certify.

Commissioner McCann said he thinks this should be on the Workshop agenda.

Commissioner D. Vannoni agreed, and invited the shop steward to attend.

IAFF Local President Kemery said the Board can go into closed session, and discuss it, and he and the shop steward would be made available.

Commissioner D. Vannoni said it will be tabled, until the Workshop meeting, when union representation will be available.

There was a discussion on using the current firefighting foam.

Solicitor Carlamere stated according to what he read; the current foam being used will be outlawed in 2 years.

Commissioner J. Vannoni said at the current time, we do not have the green foam. He questions how much it will cost to dispose of the current foam, which he said could be extremely expensive. He asked if anyone knows of any grants coming, that would help, cost wise to dispose of the current foam. He wanted to bring this topic up to the Board so they are aware and it is documented the Board has discussed the topic.

Chief Imielinski entered the meeting.

Commissioner J. Vannoni asked him what he meant concerning the career staffs gear rack at Central Avenue.

The Chief asked if it is necessary for the career staff to have a rack, when the gear is actually their (2nd) set of gear. He would like to make that gear rack for drivers only. He went on to ask if it can be condensed down, as currently they are 2nd sets for Prendergast, Woods, and Ricciardelli.

After a discussion on the subject, it was decided the Chief should discuss this with Captain Reiss, and see if a solution can be reached.

GOOD & WELFARE: Nothing

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

IAFF Local 3249 President Kemery asked what the status is with the Durango, that is located at BCR?

Commissioner Jones replied it was supposed to be advertised on GOVDEALS by the former Chief prior to him leaving, but that never happened. He said he will have to do that now. The Board approved advertising it, back in November.

He then asked the Board if they know how much of the current foam is in stock.

The Board said approximately 50 gallons in stock.

He suggested to the Board, with the \$36,000.00 credit they currently have with Dival, they use it to purchase the new foam, so the firefighters are not using the old foam that contains carcinogens.

Commissioner D. Vannoni asked if it would be worth it to get a sealed 50-gallon drum, and put all the old foam in that one drum, rather than having it in 10 different containers. It could sit somewhere, until we decide what to do with it.

Commissioner J. Vannoni said at this point, we are still permitted to use the old foam.

Commissioner D. Vannoni said yes, but we are forcing our firefighters to use something we know is toxic.

Commissioner McCann asked if we are allowed to store it in a sealed drum, and what type of stickers would need to be on the container. He said the Board may get into more trouble by doing this.

Commissioner J. Vannoni said IAFF Local 3249 President is going to do some research on disposing of the old foam, and we will see what he finds out. He said he will reach out also, to see what other Districts are doing. He went on to say, the new foam is fine for what we use it for, contrary to what is being said, that it is no good.

Motion by Commissioner J. Vannoni, second by Commissioner Cristella to have the Operations Commissioner handle disposing of the old foam, when a safe and approved plan is established, and to purchase the new foam to replace it. All in favor, motion carries.

Chief Imielinski said he thinks using the \$36,000.00 credit to fund the new foam is a great idea, and it will put us ahead of the curve.

Commissioner D. Vannoni asked Solicitor Carlamere what liability does the Board open itself up to, knowing we are making our employees work with a hazardous material.

Solicitor Carlamere said now this has been presented in an open forum, it would be in the best interest of the fire district to address the issue as soon as possible.

It was stated Squad 88 carries 30 gallons of foam, and it would be up to District # 2 share half the cost of the disposal and replacement.

FM Urso brought up the subject of the Durango again. He said you could get \$600.00 to \$700.00 just taking it to the scrap yard.

The Solicitor recommended advertising it in the newspaper for \$1,000.00.

Commissioner Jones said he knows someone who will buy it.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner J. Vannoni to have the Clerk advertise the Durango for \$1,000.00. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner J. Vannoni to pass a resolution to go into closed session to discuss personnel. All in favor, motion carries.

ROLL CALL: D. Vannoni-yes, M. Cristella-yes, J. Vannoni-yes, M. Jones-yes, J. McCann-yes

Meeting called back to order.

ROLL CALL: D. Vannoni-here, M. Cristella-here, J. Vannoni-here, M. Jones-here, J. McCann-here

Commissioner D. Vannoni stated the matter discussed in closed session will remain closed at this time.

With no further business to discuss.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Cristella to adjourn. All in favor, motion carries.

DATED: January 17, 2024

BY: _____
Michael Jones, Secretary

