

The Board of Fire Commissioners, Gloucester Township Fire District # 4 held a Regular Meeting via Zoom on February 17, 2021. This meeting has been properly advertised according to the State of New Jersey Sunshine Laws.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Vannoni (here) Commissioner Grady (here)
Commissioner McCann (here) Commissioner Jones (here)

Attendees: Solicitor Carlamere, Captain Reiss, FAM Prendergast, FF O'Connor, FF Woods, FF Kemery, FF Sambucco, FM Urso, FF Klingberg, Chief Cipriano, FF Walsh

Motion by Commissioner McCann, second by Commissioner Grady to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of 11/18/2020, 12/26/2020, 1/20/2021. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Grady, second by Commissioner McCann to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes of 12/2/2020, 1/6/2021, 2/3/2021. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner McCann, second by Commissioner Grady to approve the Special Meeting minutes of 12/2/2020 and 12/30/2020. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Grady, second by Commissioner McCann to approve the Year End Meeting minutes of 12/30/2020. All in favor, motion carries.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Motion by Commissioner Grady, second by Commissioner Vannoni to accept the revised Career Staff Shared Services Program Policy concerning COVID-19. All in favor, motion carries.

Commissioner Vannoni had nothing to report at this time.

Commissioner McCann nothing at this time.

Commissioner Jones reported the Tower Ladder is back in service.
He thanked FF Cocchi for his assistance helping FAM Prendergast during UL Testing.
The exhaust system at Blackwood Clementon Road is underway.
He asked Chief Cipriano if Junior FF under go a new physical prior to becoming firefighters.

Chief Cipriano said they do undergo a new physical.

CORROSPONDENCE

None

CLERKS REPORT

Attached.

Motion by Commissioner McCann, second by Commissioner Grady to get a voting machine for the upcoming Election. All in favor, motion carries.

TREASURERS REPORT

Motion by Commissioner McCann, second by Commissioner Grady to pay the February bills in the amount of \$33,281.17. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Vannoni, second by Commissioner Grady authorizing Commissioner McCann to sign the contract from Bowman & Company, to conduct our 2020 audit. All in favor, motion carries.

FIRE OFFICIAL REPORT

FM Urso reported all the schools and day cares were inspected, with the exception of one that is closed due to COVID-19. Working with Sign Pros on a date to get the smoke trailer lettered.

CHIEFS REPORT

Chief had nothing at this time.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

None.

CAPTAINS REPORT

Captain Reiss reported that the AFG Grant for the exhaust system at Blackwood Clementon Road was received, and signed. They are a sole source provider, so bids were not needed, per Solicitor Carlamere. Once the supplies are secured by the vendor, they are looking at installing the system in late April, early May. He is not sure how the vendor wants the payment.

According to FEMA, we can pay and be reimbursed.

Safer Grant is now open, and the deadline is March 12, 2021. Board needs to decide how to proceed.

Engine 88 program had overtime due to COVID-19, from exposures and cases, the nature of the business right now. Nothing out of control, but a few issues there. Call volume is on the low end. OPS Meeting tomorrow night, where he hopes to accomplish something.

Motion by Commissioner Grady, second by Commissioner McCann to accept all reports a read. All in favor, motion carries.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner McCann stated he spoke to Bob Hill and he will be our EEO Officer. He will only be involved in harassment cases. The rate will be \$40.00 per hour and when he reaches \$1,000.00 he will contact the Board to see if they would like him to continue.

There were questions concerning the protected group, and Solicitor Carlamere will look into that.

There will be no motion to accept Bob Hill as the EEO Officer, until the question on protected class is made solved.

Commissioner McCann went on to explain the LOSAP payment of \$1655.00 per person, which exceeds the line item, \$46,000.00 out of accounts payable, and the remainder out of this year's line item.

Motion by Commissioner Grady, second by Commissioner McCann to pay \$1655.00 per qualified member for the 2020 LOSAP. All in favor, motion carries.

Commissioner McCann brought up the topic of LOSAP points being awarded for Zoom Meetings. He took a roll call for the meeting.

Commissioner Jones reported all applications have been picked up and are due back no later than March 4, 2021 at 4:00 PM. He then recommended that once the applications are returned, that in-person interviews are set up. He said they will adhere to all social distancing.

Commissioner Grady agrees.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a discussion concerning how to apply for the Safer Grant, one application for 2 firefighters, or to just apply for one. The question on hiring someone as a temp, and then if we receive the Safer Grant for 2, put them in as a permanent employee.

Local 3249 IAFF President Kemery spoke to the Board about hiring a temporary employee until the Board sees if the Safer Grant comes through.

Commissioner Grady asked the Board what is their thoughts on petitioning Civil Service to combine District # 2 and District # 4, to make one Civil Service List, for all future hires and promotions.

Commissioner Jones said their guys are currently on our list from District # 2.

Local 3249 President Kemery said yes that is true, but if a District # 2 guy is on the list he may have a hire ranking due to his volunteer points at Chew Landing. The list changes due to volunteer service points.

Commissioner Grady said he wanted to get the Boards feelings prior to bring the subject up at the OPS Meeting.

Commissioner McCann said he felt it was odd, that District # 4 is getting ready to interview a person who will work on Engine 88, which is part of the shared service agreement between District # 2 and District # 4, but District # 2 has no say in who we hire.

Commissioner Grady agreed it was odd, but we are 2 separate entities.

Commissioner McCann asked the Board, if we interview a candidate, and that candidate has a good job, and we hire them stating the job is a temporary job, could we lose the best candidate because of that?

Commissioner Grady said sure, because temporary employees do not get healthcare, or would that be up to the Board to decide.

Commissioner Jones said he thinks it would be the Boards decision.

Commissioner Grady went on to say it would just be a title of temporary.

Commissioner Jones stated we would have to be upfront with the candidate, and say if we get the Safer grant, then you would become a permanent employee.

Solicitor Carlamere conferred that to be true.

Commissioner McCann recommended that since we have already made the new position a part of the 2021 Budget, go ahead and move along with this hire as a regular employee. The apply for the Safer Grant for the second hire. He said Mike has come up with a good plan for the temporary employee to help with the funding, but does it make it too complicated to go that way. He is fine with hiring one now, and doing the Safer Grant for the second hire.

Commissioner Grady is fine with it also.

Motion by Commissioner Grady, second by Commissioner McCann to apply for a Safer Grant, for a second position. All in favor, motion carries.

Commissioner McCann reported that last Thursday there was a meeting. The meeting was supposed to be between District # 2, District # 3 and District # 4. However, District # 3 invited District # 1 to the meeting. Their Chief as well as one or two of District # 1 Commissioners were in attendance. They discussed the shared service engine with District # 1 and District # 3.

Nothing concrete came out of the meeting, but they did have the meeting. He said he is optimistic.

Commissioner Jones asked if he was optimistic nothing will happen.

Commissioner McCann said he was optimistic that we made a step forward. Not a giant step, but he thinks we can look forward to another meeting. He also suggested that the Board schedule another meeting with District # 2 to discuss where the Boards have been, and where they are going in the future.

Commissioner Grady agreed. He will bring it up at the OPS meeting tomorrow night, and they can take it back to their Board. He will suggest April.

Commissioner Jones did not share the same feelings as Commissioner McCann on the meeting with District # 3. He was totally blindsided that District # 1 was there; it was supposed to be a 2,3 and 4 meeting. He went on to say Bill Robb put on a great power point presentation. For the next 2 hours he heard Mike Ricciardelli, who he does not recognize as a Chief, cry and complain about stuff that went on 2 years ago, that was settled by the Chiefs and the OPS Committee. He said District # 3 did seem like they would want to move forward with us, and if they had more time to talk, he thinks they would have gotten further along. That is his opinion.

GOOD & WELFARE

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

FF Klingberg questioned the hiring procedure.

Commissioner Jones explained that the Board is hiring one person now, and if the Safer Grant comes through, we will hire a second person.

FF Klingberg then questioned the AG Grant.

Commissioner Jones said the AFG Grant has been awarded for the Plimo Vent System at Station # 2, and install will be April or May.

FF Klingberg said he was talking about the hydrant grant.

Chief Cipriano said it is for hose, and if there is a cost share, District # 2 has agreed to pay half of the cost.

Motion by Commissioner Grady, second by Commissioner McCann to go into closed session to discuss Personnel. All in favor, motion carries.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Grady (yes) Commissioner McCann (yes)
Commissioner Jones (yes)

Meeting called back to order.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Grady (here) Commissioner McCann (here)
Commissioner Jones (here)

Commissioner Jones said all items discussed in closed session will remain closed at this time, until it can be resolved by the Personnel Director.

With no further business to discuss.

Motion by Commissioner Grady, second by Commissioner McCann to adjourn. All in favor, motion carries.

DATED: February 17, 2021

BY: _____
Michael Jones, Secretary

