

The Board of Fire Commissioners, Gloucester Township Fire District # 4 held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday June 21, 2017 in the office of the Board of Fire Commissioners, 14 W. Central Avenue, Blackwood, NJ 08012. This meeting has been properly advertised according to the State of New Jersey Sunshine Laws.

## **ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Stout (here)                      Commissioner McCann (here)  
Commissioner R. Jones (here @ 7:05)      Commissioner M. Jones (here @ 7:05)  
Commissioner Vannoni (here)

Attendees: Captain Reiss, FF Spain Solicitor Carlamere

Motion by Commissioner McCann, second by Commissioner Stout to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of 5/17/2017. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Stout, second by Commissioner McCann to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes of 6/7/2017. All in favor, motion carries.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Stout said he has a resolution confirming receipt of the audit, but he will wait until all members of the Board are present.

Commissioner McCann stated he will bring up something he discussed at the Workshop. He stated that we received a quote from Nottingham Insurance for our Workmen's Comp Insurance, and after reviewing the quote, which was actually \$57.00 more than our current plan, he thinks it would be best to stick with our current plan. He stated that we have a very good rapport with Henry Bean our insurance brokers. He suggested the Board can entertain a Nottingham re-quote to the Board during the budget process, and we will take it under consideration at that time. It has been 237 days since our last vehicle accident, and 5 days since our last injury. He went on to say we had a firefighter injured during a call on June 16<sup>th</sup>, as he was descending a ladder, the ladder kicked out and he fell about 6 to 7 feet. He has been seen by all the necessary medical people, and all the proper forms have been filed.

Commissioner Vannoni stated that was something he wanted to discuss in closed session, as there was a little more to it.

Commissioner R. Jones and Commissioner M. Jones have joined the meeting.

Commissioner R. Jones stated from the Chief he received John Duvall and Michael D. Jones they are dropping them from firefighters to associate members. All air packs have been flow tested,

hose testing will be July 7<sup>th</sup>, he said they just ordered 2 fans, and both air compressors in both station have been serviced. He said he was hoping the Chief would have been here as he was going to ask him about the status of Matt Davis for his 6 month probation, which comes up now. Also, the annual physicals, he asked Commissioner McCann if he had his X-Ray, and he replied he did. Captain Imilinski as of tonight is out of service, for failing to complete his physical. He stated it has been 6 months that they were notified that they had to get a physical.

Commissioner Vannoni recommended that the Board follow up with a directive stating he is out of service.

Commissioner McCann stated that as soon as he receives the X-Ray, and it is clear and sent to Commissioner R. Jones, Imilinski will be cleared for duty.

Commissioner R. Jones asked what the status was of the bathroom repair. He stated he gave the Clerk permission to go home, or locally which ever she felt comfortable with until the bathroom issue has been resolved.

Commissioner Vannoni was told the hole in the outside wall was fixed, but the hole that runs through to the men's room has not been fixed.

Commissioner M. Jones said he took it upon himself to have an indoor air quality test done on the restrooms, and the results came back stating the air quality was ok, and the mold was remediated in both the men's room as well as the ladies room and the hall. He has a copy of the report if any Board member would like a copy.

Commissioner Stout said then its ok for them to fix the wall and put the bathroom back together.

Commissioner R. Jones asked if the leak was fixed. He said he heard they still have issues.

Commissioner Vannoni said he believes that is why they have not fixed the walls. He went on to say the mold was professionally taken care of, and the air quality was tested, and came back at acceptable levels, so we are good to go there.

Commissioner Vannoni stated he is on vacation from June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup> he will be out of state. He will not be here for the Workshop, and in his absence Commissioner M. Jones will be in charge. Ryan Meehl will be on vacation from July 1<sup>st</sup> thru July 5<sup>th</sup>, so don't have any technology issues.

Commissioner R. Jones asked if he could please contact him, as he has not gotten any equipment reports.

Commissioner Vannoni said he would do that right away.

Commissioner Vannoni stated the lease for Blackwood Fire Company is coming up for renewal, and he and Commissioner M. Jones will work on that and bring it back to the Board. Contract negotiations will be coming up shortly, and they would like to get an early start on them, and hopefully have it resolved before the beginning of the year.

Commissioner Vannoni asked if we have heard anything back from the air pack grant.

Captain Reiss said the last award was June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and they had been awarding grants almost every Friday, or every other Friday, so since there has been such a span, it is not looking good.

Commissioner Vannoni said with that being said, since we have the money in the budget, maybe it is time to start replacing them. It would be his recommendation to replace a few at a time rather than all of them at once. That would be up to the Operations Commissioner.

Commissioner R. Jones said the problem he sees is with this grant they were talking about changing to the 55's, which is not different than our packs, and different from 81 & 83, which he thinks is a problem. They will not be interchangeable.

Commissioner Vannoni said well this will have to be discussed, do we know when they expire.

Commissioner R. Jones said they do not, as long as they pass. He said they have 74 bottles going out of service at the end of next year.

Commissioner Stout said he doesn't think it is that soon.

Commissioner R. Jones said it is either at the end of 18 or 19, he is not sure.

Commissioner Vannoni asked if we can buy some this year, some next year etc.

Commissioner Stout stated we have the bottle fund, and currently there is \$48,000.00 in there, and that is 6 years, and when we started the fund, it was for 10 years, and at the end of that we would have \$80,000.00, so he believes we have 3 years left before the bottles expire. He said we started the fund when the bottles were 5 years old.

Commissioner R. Jones said he will have to check the actual numbers to make sure.

Commissioner Stout said we had 10 years at \$8,000.00 a year, and a \$1,000.00 per bottle. That is why he believes we have at least 3 years left. He said they did a study years ago, and it is cheaper to buy them all at once, because when you buy a bottle, it starts to die. It was easier to put the money away, and buy them all at once.

Commissioner R. Jones said it will be 2018 to 2019 when they are out of service.

Commissioner Vannoni said well it does not look like we are getting the grant, so at least we have a plan in place.

Commissioner Vannoni asked if we have heard anything on the Fire Prevention Grant for the trailer.

Captain Reiss said not yet, the reviews were just completed last week, and he looked at the tends and from the date of the application there is a 2 to 3 month window before the awards get announced. That puts us at late June early July, and everyone knows how the government works, and with the Federal Holiday, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, they probably won't start to be announced until after that. He thinks the first week after July 4<sup>th</sup>. That would be for the Safer Grant, for the trailer grant, 2 to 3 months after May.

Commissioner R. Jones asked if District # 6 is still on board, because he read the minutes and they were totally against it.

Captain Reiss said he personally spoke to Chief Breezy today, and he was actually absent at that meeting, but between then and the next meeting the situation was rectified, and they are on board.

Commissioner Vannoni asked Commissioner M. Jones if he has spoken to Honer on the sprinkler system at Station # 2.

Commissioner M. Jones replied he has not, but he will be out there tomorrow.

Commissioner Vannoni asked when the MOA agreement for FF Prendergast end?

Captain Reiss stated he believes it is either the end of August or the beginning of September.

Commissioner Vannoni stated the Board needs to discuss it, and make a decision on whether they will renew it or discontinue it moving forward.

Commissioner McCann asked that it does not coincide with the contract, and will it continue on a month to month basis, or will it expire.

Commissioner Vannoni said it will expire if it is not renewed by the expiration date. The Board will have to make a decision before the end of that, as to what we want to do.

Commissioner McCann said Commissioner Vannoni will not be at the Workshop on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

After a discussion by the Board, the Workshop was changed to July 12<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by Commissioner M. Jones, second by Commissioner M. Jones to change the Workshop Meeting from July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 12<sup>th</sup>. All in favor, motion carries.

Commissioner Stout said Commissioner Genzel, from Chews Landing had notified him and asked about a meeting with 2 of our Commissioners and 2 of the Commissioners from Chews Landing, concerning the shared services between the two Fire Districts. He said he did not know if the Chairman wanted to appoint a committee.

Commissioner Vannoni stated he believes the Board did that at a past meeting. He went on to say, with input from Commissioner R. Jones, that the Committee consisted of himself and Commissioner R. Jones.

Motion by Commissioner Stout, second by Commissioner McCann to pass a resolution confirming receipt of the audit, as well as all Board members reading and understanding the recommendations of the audit. All in favor, motion carries.

### **ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Stout (yes)      Commissioner McCann (yes)  
Commissioner R. Jones (yes)      Commissioner M. Jones (yes)  
Commissioner Vannoni (yes)

### **CORROSPONDENCE**

Clerk Fini said she received a card from the Devecchio family, thanking Captain Reiss, FF Prendergast and FF Woods for fixing the issue with their flagpole. They were extremely grateful.

Commissioner Vannoni asked if there was other correspondence on another flagpole issue.

Clerk Fini said she received a call from a resident of Central Avenue, who wanted to know why there is not a flag pole out front after the reconstruction of the building. She referred the question to President Miller, and Chief Cipriano.

### **CLERK'S REPORT**

None

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Motion by Commissioner Stout, second by Commissioner R. Jones to pay the July bills in the amount of \$22,827.49. All in favor, motion carries.

Commissioner Stout recommended to the Board that they pay attention to their line items, and he said the only thing that he noticed was on the first page and the overtime.

Commissioner McCann said when we get to signing the vouchers and the checks, note the checks to the Division of Pension and Benefits has vouchers that require 3 signatures.

## **FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT**

Attached

Commissioner Vannoni stated he met with Captain Reiss, brought up the discussion he had with Commissioner McCann concerning the amount of inspections, and said they are both working to make sure our obligations are met.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Attached

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

None

## **CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

Attached

Commissioner Vannoni asked Captain Reiss to make sure FF Woods attends a training session as soon as he is able.

Captain Reiss added that when the fill in program started there were 7 available drivers, and now we are down to 5, and unfortunately 2 did not meet the requirements after further review of their files. He spoke to Assistant Chief Coucoules, who informed him the 2 are scheduled for the classes needed, and as soon as they are completed, they will become available again.

Commissioner M. Jones asked Captain Reiss if anyone has completed drivers training.

Captain Reiss said no one has completed, but FF Anderson did get some driver training hours in on a day when he worked the fill in position. Two others expressed interest, but they have not completed the necessary paperwork through the line offices and the Chief. They are both

working this week, and they will be advised as to what steps they need to take to get this completed.

Motion by Commissioner M. Jones, second by Commissioner Stout to accept all reports as read.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Vannoni said he has been provided with a list of old turnout gear, all of which have exceeded the 10 year mark.

There was a question raised by Commissioner R. Jones, as the list has another set of numbers that he does not recognize.

Motion by Commissioner R. Jones, second by Commissioner McCann to pass a resolution allowing the destruction of the outdated turn out gear, with the stipulation the list will be clarified by Commissioner R. Jones. All in favor, motion carries.

## **ROLL CALL**

Commissioner McCann (yes) Commissioner Stout (yes)  
Commissioner R. Jones (yes) Commissioner M. Jones (yes)  
Commissioner Vannoni (yes)

Commissioner McCann asked Commissioner R. Jones and Commissioner Vannoni if the MOA for Fire Captain Reiss was reviewed and signed by both of them, as discussed at the last meeting.

Commissioner Vannoni replied it was with some minor changes, font issues that were resolved.

Commissioner McCann asked if this MOA expires like the one for FF Prendergast, or does it run through the end of the contract.

Commissioner Vannoni and Commissioner R. Jones replied that it was an amendment to the contract, so it will not expire. We are all good there.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **GOOD AND WELFARE**

None

## **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

FF Spain asked the Board if anyone has looked into State bidding for buying uniforms.

Commissioner Vannoni said he has never heard of State bid for uniforms, but Commissioner R. Jones said he would look into it.

FF Spain said he came past the old New Deal Lumber today and there was a sign out front, he said he does not know if it is occupied or what.

Commissioner Vannoni said he believes the Township has so many leans against the property that they are trying to get out from under it.

Solicitor Carlamere stated he is not sure if the Township is in possession of it, but it is deemed a re-development zone, so that is why the sign states that.

FF Spain said the Fire Department should be concerned if it is vacant.

Commissioner Vannoni stated you are about 10 years late on this, Fire Official Urso is aware of it, it has been labeled a derelict structure, code enforcement is aware of it, as well as public works. Everything that is legally possible is being done.

FF Spain stated he saw 4 to 5 teenage kids all wrapped in beach towels behind the pump station with wet hair, and they had been swimming back there. He said if something happens, the Fire Company will be the ones to be called.

Commissioner Vannoni stated that in a case such as that you should notify the police if you see something that you deem to be illegal or hazardous. That would fall under our Fire District, and we have people who are trained in water rescue if the need arises.

Motion by Commissioner McCann, second by Commissioner Stout to pass a resolution to go into closed session to discuss personnel, specifically the accident that happened.

### **ROLL CALL**

Commissioner McCann (yes)    Commissioner Stout (yes)  
Commissioner R. Jones (yes)    Commissioner M. Jones (yes)  
Commissioner Vannoni (yes)

The Meeting was called back to order.

Commissioner Vannoni stated that during closed session they discussed the accident.

Motion by Commissioner M. Jones, second by Commissioner R. Jones to authorize Captain Reiss to conduct an investigation, using the appropriate protocol into the cause of the accident that occurred on June 16, 2017, and to report back to the Board with his findings prior to the Special Meeting to be held July 12, 2017.

All in favor, motion carries.

With no further business to discuss.

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

DATED: JUNE 21, 2017

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ernest R. Jones, Secretary



