The Board of Fire Commissioners, Gloucester Township Fire District # 4 held a Regular Meeting on December 21, 2022. The meeting was held at Blackwood Fire Company, 4 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, J. McCann

ATTENDEES: Solicitor Carlamere. No record of other attendees

Motion by Commissioner Joes, second by Commissioner McCann to approve the budget meeting minutes of 11/9/2022. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Cristella, second by Commissioner Jones to approve the workshop meeting minutes of 11/2/2022. All in favor, motion carries.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Cristella will reach out once again to the roofing company for Station # 2, and if he does not get a response, Solicitor Carlamere will send a letter to them.

Commissioner McCann stated the LOSAP List has been posted for the required 30 days.

Motion by Commissioner McCann, second by Commissioner J. Vannoni to accept the 2022 LOSAP list.

D. Vannoni-yes, M. Cristella-yes, J. Vannoni-yes-J. McCann-yes, M. Jones-abstain

Commissioner J. Vannoni stated there are multiple personnel issues, and he would like to into closed session to discuss.

Ongoing talks with District # 6 on a possible merger.

FF Ricciardelli has completed FF1.

Captain Reiss has completed CCU Courses.

Commissioner Jones reported Engine 842 has suffered a failure. It will not run for longer than 30 seconds. A discussion followed concerning Engine 842.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, second by Commissioner Cristella to remove expired gear from inventory, and if the gear is to be donated, a hold harmless letter will accompany the donation.

ROLL CALL: D. Vannoni-yes. M. Cristella-yes, J. McCann-no, J. Vannoni-no, M. Jones-yes

REPORTS:

Clerk: None

Treasures Report: Motion by Commissioner McCann, second by Commissioner Jones to pay the December bills in the amount of $58,985.97. All in favor, motion carries.

A reminder from Commissioner McCann the budget has been sent to the State, and there is a year-end meeting on 12/28 at 7:00.

Commissioner D. Vannoni added the 2023 budget is cap compliant.

Fire Official: None

Chief: Attached

President: Blackwood Fire company is still working on the 2023 budget, and it will be presented to Blackwood Fire Company at the January Meeting. He added the parade went off without a hitch.

Captain Reiss: Captain Reiss reported this has been the busiest year since the inception of the 88 programs.

FAM: None

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

OLD BUSINESSS:

Commissioner McCann requested that on future Captain’s report, can the milage of Squad 88 be notated.

Commissioner Jones asked where the utility, if purchased, would be housed.

Motion by Commissioner J. Vannoni, second by Commissioner McCann to have the Chief put Engine 842 on Gov Deals for sale. All in favor, motion carries.

Chief requested it be moved to Station # 2 to be stripped. The Board agreed it will stay at Station # 1, to avoid towing fees.

There was a discussion on getting a second opinion on the Tower Ladder.

Motion by Commissioner McCann, second by Commissioner Vannoni to get a second opinion on the Tower Ladder.

Motion rescinded, and on hold, until the end of year meeting.

Advertise the additional meeting for the end of year meeting.

(Clerk was not present- election- not notified of the need for the advertisement)

Motion by Commissioner J. Vannoni, second by Commissioner McCann to have a 5-minute recess. All in favor, motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Commissioner J. Vannoni, second by Commissioner Jones to accept the application of Christina Nowogski, as a firefighter, with the 6-month probationary period. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner J. Vannoni, second by Commissioner McCann to sign and approve the revised shared service Engine 88 agreement. All in favor, motion carried.

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

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

Back from closed session.

Commissioner Cristella stated everything discussed in closed session will remain closed at this time.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

President Stott asked if the Board was going to get a second opinion on the engine, and from a financial stand point, the Board could get more money for it if it was repaired.

There was a discussion on the topic, with Commissioner J. Vannoni stating the Chief wanted the Cascade, and so did some of the members. He said the Board is moving forward.

FF Shrader asked if the boxes have been upgraded, to show we went from 3 fire suppression apparatus down to 1.

Commissioner Vannoni said the boxes were changed immediately, when the apparatus went out of service. He went on to say there is plenty of blame to go around, but it doesn’t matter how it happened.

FF Shrader said he is not blaming anyone, but the Board needs to have control over the maintenance, and have a plan to purchase apparatus. He asked if anyone looked at Campbell’s and saw the used apparatus they have for sale.

Commissioner Vannoni replied no plan has been put into place.

FF Derr said he needs a better understanding of the insurance. He said he is employed by the Commission, so when is he covered by insurance.

Commissioner J. Vannoni stated you are covered from when the pager goes off, until your first stop on your way home. He said he has discussed this with our insurance agent, and he confirmed it. He added that there was a case several years ago, that was denied by our insurance carrier at that time. The firefighter involved, should have fought the denial, but decided not to. We also have an additional accident insurance policy, which did in fact, cover that firefighter, so he did receive benefits from his injury.

FF Alvin asked the Board what is the offer of apparatus from Fire District # 6.

Commissioner J. Vannoni stated all these things are being discussed by the Board, and they will stay with the Board at this time. He added that you need to follow the chain of command.

FF Alvin said he is only asking questions.

Commissioner J. Vannoni said the Bard is spending 1.8 million dollars on a 24/7 response. The issue is, times have changed, and no longer are there 30 active volunteer firefighters. That is why the Board has Squad 88, to ensure someone shows up when a call goes out.

FF Alvin said no one knew there was a vote on the apparatus today.

J. Vannoni stated the Special Meeting was advertised, posted in 5 public places, and the Clerk and the Board has done what we had to do according to the law. The Board is doing what the need to do according to the State and the auditor, again, we are doing what we need to do. He said he is not discussing social media today, but the Board follows the rules.

IAFF Local 3249 President Kemery reminded everyone, that actually there are 2 pieces. Squad 84 and Engine 88 if needed. Additionally, you have Squad 88 responding to every call.

Commissioner J. Vannoni added he will talk about the Fire Company policies at the Blackwood Fire Company Meetings, when he is able to attend.

Commissioner McCann said he will bring up something in the Chiefs report at the workshop.

With no further business to discuss.

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

DATED: December 21, 2022

BY\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Michael Jones, Secretary