

The six hundred ninety-fourth meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, District #2, Gloucester Township was held in the Chews Landing Fire Station on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 7:30 PM. The meeting was opened with the flag salute.

Commissioners present were: Donahue, Evans (7:33 PM), Reichert, Ritz, Genzel. Solicitor Carlamere was present.

Motion by N. Ritz seconded by J. Reichert to accept the minutes of the previous meetings as distributed.

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Absent; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

Chief's Report:

J. Gant stated that the Chief was working and there was no Chief's report for the night.

G. Genzel stated that the Chief announced that he will be stepping down. The date is undetermined. This will be discussed in closed session tonight.

Commissioner Evans arrived at 7:33 PM.

Group Report: "A" Treasurer; Building Maintenance; Park

CPA prepared a draft of the year end 2014 budget report. Accounts payable and line item transfers may still alter the final report.

The State advised us yesterday that the 2015 budget will not be approved pending 2 pages in the packet be corrected and various items be posted to the website. These will be taken care of ASAP and the State is allowing our public hearing to proceed.

Resolution by K. Donahue seconded by N. Ritz to adopt a temporary 14% budget to operate with for January 1 to February 28, 2015; as per State requirements.

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Yes; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

Resolution by K. Donahue seconded by R. Evans to adopt the corrective action plan for the 2013 audit findings.

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Yes; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

Public Hearing of the proposed 2015 budget:

The budget was reviewed and the floor was opened for questions. There were no questions or comments.

Resolution by K. Donahue seconded by N. Ritz to adopt the proposed 2015 budget.

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Yes; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

Group Report: "C" Apparatus and Equipment

Rescue compartment doors were adjusted.

Ladder had new tires installed.

FM's truck had a PM done.

Repaired the shore line on the duty car.

Rescue had the rear airbag repaired again. This time a new mount was installed also as it was thought that it could be the reason the bags keep failing. New shocks will also be installed.

New nozzle mounts were installed on the brush truck.

New light bezel was installed on ladder truck.

Repaired the MDC power cord in the duty car.

N. Procopio replaced around 20 lights throughout the building.

Group Report: "B" Fire Prevention; EMS

Fire Prevention report for December was reviewed. N. Giambri worked 30 hours in the office.

New inspection zones were made up to minimize travel time between inspections.

Group Report: "D" Insurance; Hydrants; Uniforms; Radios

No report.

Group Report: "E" Personnel; Training; Office

Resolution by J. Reichert seconded by R. Evans to accept Daniel Foley as a junior member of the fire company.

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Yes; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

A closed session will be held at the end of the regular agenda to discuss the Chief's position.

Old Business:

No report.

New Business:

Motion by K. Donahue seconded by N. Ritz to pay the bills of the evening.

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Yes; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

Motion by K. Donahue seconded by R. Evans to accept the receipts.

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Yes; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

R. Evans brought up the possibility of upgrading the computer fire training program from version 4 to version 6.

- W. Weiserth stated that Camden County uses the program and he was one of twelve people at the county that received training on it. He stated he would like to help train the officers on the use of the program.

- J. Gant said he likes the program because it uses local buildings in the scenarios.

Motion by R. Evans seconded by J. Reichert to approve the upgrade out of the training budget.

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Yes; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

Good of the District / Public:

N. Ritz asked if our district had interest in doing the fire inspection work in District 3.

J. Reichert said not interested as of now.

M. Zawojski stated everyone did a good job at the Lake Avenue fire in Blackwood. Tough weather conditions with freezing temperatures made the job difficult. R. Evans added that the OEM bus came in handy for warming firefighters on the scene.

Resolution by N. Ritz seconded by R. Evans to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters. (7:53 PM)

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Yes; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

Returned from closed session at 8:05 PM. All Commissioners present.

Solicitor Carlamere talked of the Chief's intent to step down due to general talk and texts that were distributed department wide.

Motion by J. Reichert seconded by R. Evans to terminate Chris Gerace as Chief, based on his intent to resign, as of February 1, 2015 unless he chooses to leave earlier.

J. Reichert commented that he is making this motion based on a combination of the Chief's letter approximately 3 months ago announcing his intention to resign which was withdrawn, and his current announcement by talk and text that he is resigning at an unannounced date in the future. J. Reichert stated that he feels staying any longer than February 1 would not be productive for the fire district.

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Yes; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

Resolution by R. Evans seconded by J. Reichert to go back into closed session with Jeff Gant to discuss personnel matters. (8:12 PM)

Roll call vote: Donahue-Yes; Evans-Yes; Reichert-Yes; Ritz-Yes; Genzel-Yes.

Returned from closed session at 8:21 PM. All Commissioners present.

The Board asked Jeff Gant to serve as Acting Chief, which he agreed to do.

J. Reichert thanked all members present for attending. He stated that it is good that members take interest in matters that involve everyone in the fire district. The Board is looking for cooperation between everyone including the volunteers, career staff, and the Board.

R. Evans seconded J. Reichert's statement.

N. Ritz asked if Board meetings can be announced on the LED sign. M. Mosiondz said that they are, but he will double check.

This concluded the business of the evening. A motion to adjourn was made by J. Reichert seconded by N. Ritz and carried. To reconvene for a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 7:30 PM. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Read and Approved:

Chairman:

Clerk:

