

The seven hundred and eighty-first meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, District #2, Gloucester Township was held in the Chews Landing Fire Station on Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Commissioners present were: Genzel, Reichert, Evans, Donahue and Grady. Also in attendance were Solicitor Dave Carlamere, Administrator Robb and Chief Millisky (late)

Chairman Genzel opened the meeting at 7:01 pm with the flag salute and acknowledgement of the meeting being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act and advertised as such.

Roll Call: Reichert-yes, Genzel-yes, Evans-yes, Grady-yes, Donahue-yes

A motion was made by Evans and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reichert to accept the minutes of the previous meeting.

Roll Call: Reichert-yes, Genzel-yes, Evans-yes, Grady-yes, Donahue-yes

Chief's Report: Chief Millisky attended the viewing of FF Gant's father prior to the start of the meeting.

Administrator's Report: Admin Robb reviewed the attached agenda. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the pros & cons of a new tower ladder versus refurbished, time lines of both and the probability of a special election.

Solicitor's Report: None

Group Report: "A" Building Maintenance, Park (K. Donahue) None

Group Report: "B" Fire Prevention, EMS (J. Reichert) Comm. Reichert reviewed the Fire Official report provided by Capt. Giambri. Fire Prevention Open House is on target and Insp. Young anticipates all of the life hazard inspections will be accomplished by early December. Comm. Reichert also commented that having the part time inspector is working out very well.

Group Report: "C" Apparatus & Equipment (R. Evans) Comm. Evans reviewed the report provided by Capt. Procopio. Capt. Giambri reported that the tough books from last year are finally installed after all the mapping issues. Comm. Donahue questions if the FM car should be put in the shop due to the rise in catalytic converter thefts. After discussion, the Board decided that same is not necessary.

Group Report: "D" Insurance, Hydrants, Radios & Uniforms (L. Grady) Comm. Grady had nothing to report other than the cost of everything, including hydrant rentals, just keeps going up.

Group Report: "E" Training, Personnel, Office (G. Genzel) Chairman Genzel reported his items will be discussed in closed session as they concern personnel issues.

Old Business: None

New Business: A motion was made by Donahue and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Grady to approve the bills presented for payment this evening in the amount of \$65,832.54

Roll Call: Reichert-yes, Genzel-yes, Evans-yes, Grady-yes, Donahue-yes

A motion was made by Donahue and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Grady to accept the receipts presented this evening in the amount of \$9,078.39.

Roll Call: Reichert-yes, Genzel-yes, Evans-yes, Grady-yes, Donahue-yes

A Resolution (22-22) was made by Evans and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Grady authorizing the removal of obsolete items from inventory with the turnout gear being donated to the 9/11 foundation as per past practice, and the fans being donated to the Camden County Regional Emergency Training Center.

Roll Call: Reichert-yes, Genzel-yes, Evans-yes, Grady-yes, Donahue-yes

A Resolution (22-23) was made by Genzel and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Evans to schedule a special election to gain voter approval for the expenditure not to exceed 2.2 million dollars to replace Tower Ladder 82. Suggested date of special election will be Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 2:00pm till 9:00pm providing the Board of Elections can accommodate the request.

Roll Call: Reichert-yes, Genzel-yes, Evans-yes, Grady-yes, Donahue-yes

A Resolution (22-21) was made by Evans and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reichert authorizing the purchase of 2 sets of Globe PPE at a cost of \$8,390.50, the majority of which will be reimbursed by the Regional SAFER Recruitment and Retention Grant.

Roll Call: Reichert-yes, Genzel-yes, Evans-yes, Grady-yes, Donahue-yes

A motion was made by Evans and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reichert to accept the 5% increase offered by GTFD #3 to offset the cost of career staff according to our agreement to provide shared services. Comm. Grady suggested our need to track a cost per run for next year.

Roll Call: Reichert-yes, Genzel-yes, Evans-yes, Grady-yes, Donahue-no

Good of the District: None

A motion was made by Genzel and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reichert at 8:10pm to go into closed session to discuss personnel issues.

Roll Call: Reichert-yes, Genzel-yes, Evans-yes, Grady-yes, Donahue-yes

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Chief position. No decisions were made.

A motion was made by Genzel and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reichert at 9:02 pm to go back into open session.

Roll Call: Reichert-yes, Genzel-yes, Evans-yes, Grady-yes, Donahue-yes

There being no other business a motion was made by Donahue and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Grady to adjourn at 9:03 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Read and approved:

Chairman: 

Submitted:

Clerk: 

Date: OCT 12 2022

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

From: Bill Robb – Administrator

RE: Meeting – 9/14/2022

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1. Shared Service Program:
  - a. Development of the joint policy for the Squad 88 dash camera is still pending.
  - b. Payment for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Squad 88 shared service costs has been received from District 3.
    - i. As previously communicated, Fire District #3 has agreed to continue the Squad 88 Shared Services program in 2023 with the same coverage hours. They've offered to increase the compensation by 5% from \$36,000 (\$18,000 per district) to \$37,800 (\$18,900 per district). Their attorney has also requested a change to the opt-out notification from 90 days to 60 days, noting the 60-day time frame is consistent with standard legal contracts. No other changes to the agreement are requested. **Request a Motion to either accept the offer or to provide a counter-offer.**
  - c. The joint meeting with District 4 was held on September 7, 2022 at 7:00 pm at our station. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 4, 2023 at 7:00 pm at our station.
2. On Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, I received a call from John Saban, who works in Assemblywoman Mosquera's office. Mr. Saban said he spoke with John Schmidt of the Board of Elections. Mr. Schmidt reportedly said he's aware of the concerns regarding the rising cost of the elections for Fire Districts and is looking into options to reduce the costs. Mr. Saban said Mr. Schmidt should be calling me sometime in early September to report his findings. No call has been received to date.
3. As approved at last month's meeting, an order has been placed with Wireless Communications for two (2) Panasonic CF33 Toughbook computers, which will replace the computers in the Chief's vehicle and the Duty car. Delivery is pending.
4. The three (3) Dell Optiplex 7000 desktop computers approved for purchase at last month's meeting have been received and placed in service.
5. **Request approval of attached Resolution 22-021, authorizing the purchase of two (2) sets of Globe PPE (coats, pants and boots) from Continental Fire and Safety of Hamilton, New Jersey for the state contract price of \$8,390.50.** A reimbursement request for the majority of the purchase price will be submitted to Fire District #1 via the Regional SAFER Recruitment and Retention Grant.
6. **Request approval of attached Resolution 2022-022, authorizing removal from inventory as obsolete equipment two (2) Supervac Gas PPV Fans, to be donated to the Camden County Regional Emergency Training Center, and seven (7) turnout coats and one (1) pair of bunker pants, to be donated to the 9/11 Fund Inc.**

7. Awards for the 2022 FEMA Safer Grant Program started on August 26, 2022. The grants normally have to be awarded by September 30<sup>th</sup>, which is the end of the federal fiscal year. However, IAFF Union President Keith Kemery has advised that some of the funding for this year's grant will be from the American Rescue Act, which extends beyond September 30<sup>th</sup>. Based on this information, a lack of notice by September 30<sup>th</sup> does not necessarily mean that we will not be receiving the grant.
8. Payment in the amount of \$1,750.00 has been received from the City of Camden as reimbursement of tuition costs for their firefighters who attended the Supervision and Leadership Training Class we hosted. There are no other pending invoices from the class.
9. Tower 82 was involved in a minor collision with one of the bollards protecting the fuel pump on September 10, 2022. The incident resulted in damage to the extended rubber light on the driver's side rear corner of the rig (already replaced by Captain Procopio), along with a very minor dent in the rub rail. Chief Millisky is handling the incident as a training issue, and will ensure the necessary training is conducted and documented.
10. I've been advised that the truck committee is requesting the Board schedule a Special Election this year to authorize the expenditure of funds in 2023 for either the purchase of a new apparatus to replace Tower Ladder 82 or the refurbishment of the current apparatus. The Truck Committee was seriously considering the refurbishment option, which would involve the purchase of a new Pierce Cab and chassis, and the transfer of the existing aerial device and outriggers to the new apparatus, resulting in the savings of several hundred thousand dollars versus the cost of a completely new apparatus. However, Pierce salesman Ed Miller recently advised the truck committee that, due to supply chain issues, Pierce is not currently accepting orders for refurbished apparatus with new cabs and chassis. A number of recent stories in the press and on social media reveal that all of the fire truck manufacturers are dealing with rising costs and supply chain demands, with the average wait for a new apparatus from the time of order to delivery running between 30 and 36 months, and annual price increases in the 8-10% range. There is no indication that these issues will improve in the near future, so the longer we wait to act the more expensive the new truck will be and the longer we will have to wait for it. Ed Miller has advised of the possible availability of a Peirce Ascendant demo in 2023, which would greatly shorten the delivery time and cost less than a truck spec'd from scratch. While the truck committee is still investigating both options, they're asking that the Board seek public approval for the funds needed to purchase a new demonstrator mid-mount tower. This would leave open the option of a refurb or purchase of a new apparatus, depending on which option makes the most sense based on cost and availability. **If the Board is in agreement, request approval of attached Resolution 22-23, authorizing the scheduling of a Special election on Saturday, November 19, 2022 to seek public approval of a Referendum for expenditure of funds not to exceed 2 (or 2.2) million dollars for replacement of Tower Ladder 82, which is currently 24 years old.**
11. Due to a reporting error, we will be receiving a refund of \$970.17 from the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits for overpayment of funds.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Personnel