

The seven hundred and ninety fourth meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, District #2, Gloucester Township was held in the Chews Landing Fire Station on Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Commissioners present were: Genzel, Reichert, Evans and Grady Also present were Chief Millisky and Administrator Robb.

Chairman Genzel opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the flag salute and acknowledgement of the meeting being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act and having been advertised as such.

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

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

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

Chief's Report: Chief Millisky reported on the Relief Association meeting, the upcoming Fire Prevention events that are underway and FF D. Haines receiving the Citizen Appreciation award.

Administrator's Report: Admin Robb reviewed the attached agenda adding that under the healthcare topic we could also potentially switch to HIF for the dental plan which seems to be a better plan than our current one.

Solicitor's Report: Absent

Group Report: "A" Building Maintenance, Park (K. Donahue) Absent

Group Report: "B" Fire Prevention, EMS (J. Reichert) Comm Reichert reviewed FO Young's report noting the inspections and activities by the fire prevention bureau and also commenting that the Fire Prevention Open House this year went well even though it was a fraction of our typical attendees most likely due to the Phillies game. Comm. Reichert also noted that he had cut the budget this year but may need to increase some again for next year after reviewing the expenditures.

Group Report: "C" Apparatus & Equipment (R. Evans) Comm Evans reviewed the apparatus and building maintenance report provided by Capt. Procopio providing updates on the TL82 build as well as the routine maintenance and repairs on both the apparatus and the station throughout the month.

Group Report: "D" Insurance, Hydrants, Radios & Uniforms (L. Grady) Comm. Grady reported that Admin Robb has spent an enormous amount of time researching and confirming the HIF insurance plans and cost and he is of the opinion that it is a no brainer to make the move to HIF when considering the savings to the district and the comparable plans to the staff.

Group Report: "E" Training, Personnel, Office (G. Genzel) Chairman Genzel will discuss his items in closed session as they deal with personnel matters.

Old Business: A Resolution (23-28) was made by Grady and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Evans authorizing the termination of the State Health Benefits for our employees effective January 1, 2024.

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

A Resolution (23-29) was made by Grady and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reichert authorizing the district to join the Southern New Jersey Regional Employee Health Benefits Program to be effective January 1, 2024.

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

A Resolution (23-30) was made appointing Administrator Robb as the GTFD #2 SNJHIF Fund Commissioner and Commissioner Grady as the alternate.

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

New Business: A motion was made by Grady and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Evans to approve the bills presented for payment this evening in the amount of \$102,319.42

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

A motion was made by Grady and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Reichert to accept the receipts presented this evening in the amount of \$2,390.39

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

A Resolution (23-31) was made in favor of the 2024 Fire Commissioner stipends pending review and approval by Gloucester Township Town Council.

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

A motion was made by Evans and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Grady to authorize Chief Millisky to suspend the authority to respond to fire calls for any active, non-probationary member who is not in compliance with the NJ Division of Fire Safety Minimum Firefighter Certification by January 1, 2024. Chief Millisky is also authorized to extend the deadline for member who are making an effort to meet the standard.

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

Good of the District: Comm. Evans commented to Chief Millisky on the fine job his new Lieutenants (Jenkinson and Comisky) are doing. It hasn't gone unnoticed.

Admin Robb reported that Provisional Captain Procopio has submitted a letter expressing interest in promotion to the position of Fire Captain, as per the Certificate of Eligibles issued by the New Jersey Civil Service Commission. Copies of the letter were shared with the Board members. Administrator Robb also thanked Capt. Procopio for his assistance with research and communication with the career firefighters regarding concerns and clarifications of the contemplated changes in health care providers.

A motion was made by Evans and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Grady to go into closed session at 7:45pm to discuss personnel issues.

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

A motion was made by Evans and Reichert to go back into open session at 8:22pm.

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

A motion was made by Grady and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Evans to immediately suspend the authority of Asst. Chief Scott to serve as a firefighter for the district pending investigation of a serious policy violation.

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

There being no other business a motion was made by Reichert and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Grady to adjourn at 8:25pm. All in favor, motion carried.

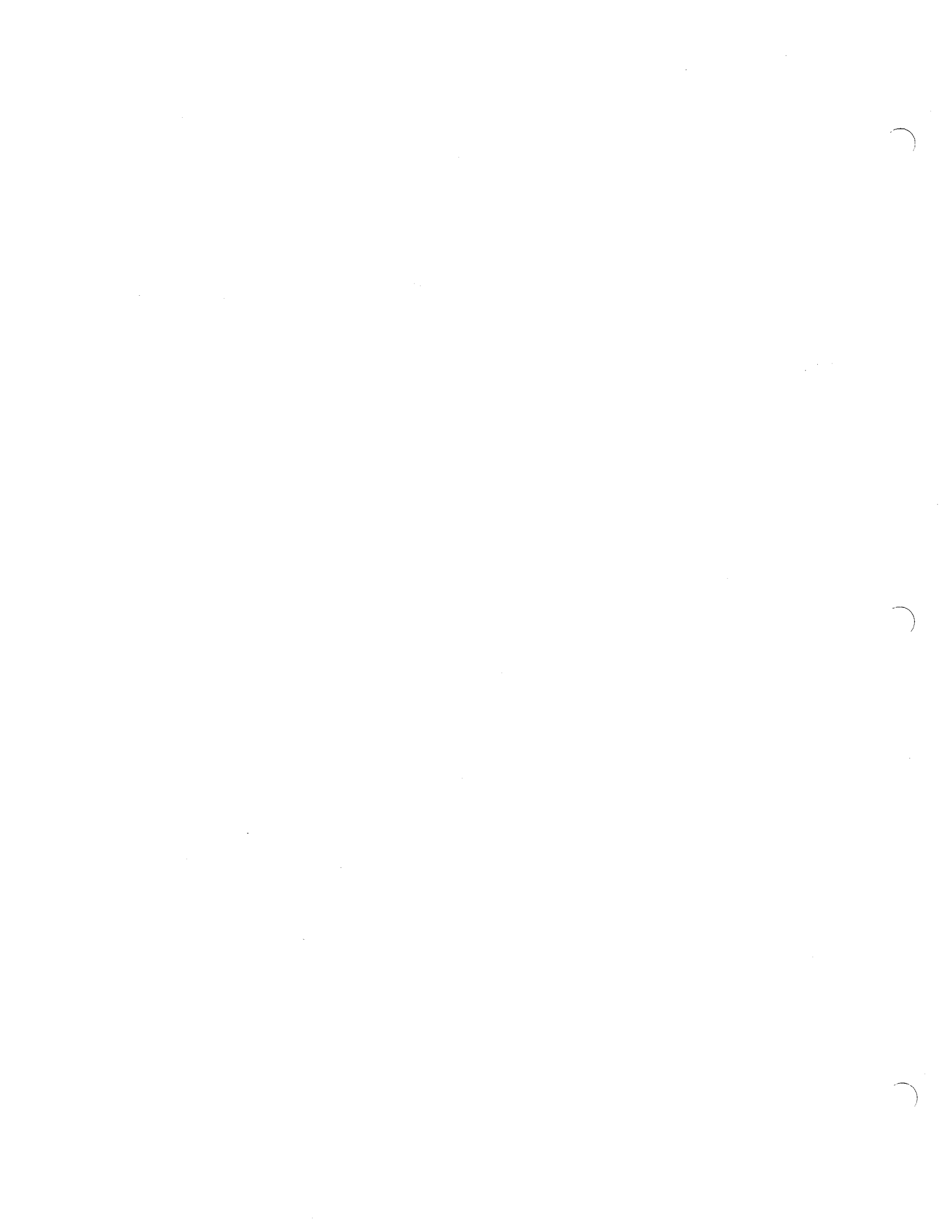
Read and approved:

Chairman: George H. Genzel

Submitted:

Clerk: Marianne C. Robb

Date: 11/1/2023



TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

From: Bill Robb – Administrator

RE Meeting – October 11, 2023

---

1. Shared Service Program:

- a. The next meeting of the Shared Services Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at Station 84 at 7:00 pm.
- b. It does not appear that D4 was awarded the SAFER grant to hire another firefighter. Therefore, it does not appear a meeting between Chairman Genzel and D4 Commissioner Vannoni will be necessary. Barring any objections, I will remove this topic from the agenda.
- c. The Squad 88 members held their first quarterly meeting on October 7, 2023, with 12 of the 14 members in attendance. Meeting minutes were prepared by Captain Procopio and previously forwarded to the Board.
- d. The order for Squad 88 equipment approved at the October Special Meeting has been placed with Dival Safety Equipment.
- e. Chairman Genzel and Chief Millisky attended the Fire District #1 monthly meeting to again offer them the opportunity to participate in the Squad 88 Shared Services program.
- f. A meeting to be attended by representatives of Fire Districts 2, 3 and 4 is scheduled for tomorrow night to discuss District 3's 2024 plans for participation in the Squad 88 Shared Services program. The meeting will be attended by two commissions and the fire chief from each district.

2. New TL82 Purchase

- a. In production – completion is expected within the next month.

3. The order for five new office chairs, approved at the October Special Meeting, has been placed with WB Mason.

4. As The Board is aware, we have spent the last several months researching a possible switch from the NJ State Health Benefits plan to the Southern New Jersey Health Insurance Fund. Our research has revealed a 2024 cost savings in excess of \$26,000 if we decide to switch. Our research, conducted in conjunction with IAFF Local 3249 members, has also revealed that the new coverage will meet our contractual obligations to provide coverage which is equivalent to the coverage in effect when the 2021-2024 collective bargaining agreement was signed. If the Board agrees to make the switch, request adoption of the following Resolutions:

- a. **Resolution 23-28 authorizing termination of the State Health Benefits for our employees.** As noted in the Resolution, the plan cancellation would take effect the first of the month following a 60-day period from receipt of the Resolution. If passed tonight, the Resolution will be forwarded to the state prior to the end of the month, and the cancellation would take effect on January 1, 2024.

- b. **Resolution 23-29, authorizing the district to join the Southern New Jersey Regional Employee Health Benefits Program.** If the Resolution is approved, the coverage will take effect on January 1, 2024.
  - c. **Resolution 23-30 appointing Administrator Robb as the District 2 SNJHIF Fund Commissioner and Commissioner Grady as the alternate.** The SNJHIF rules allow elected commissioners or fire district employees to serve as Fund Commissioners.
- 5. The spreadsheet with the portable radio alias identifiers has been completed and forwarded to Chief Millisky and Chief Cipriano for approval. Once approval is received, I will coordinate the programming of our radios with Wireless Communications.
- 6. New member applicant Michael Gennarelli has withdrawn his application, citing as a reason the pending sale of his house.
- 7. It appears the Bowman and Company information-gathering process for the 2022 fiscal year audit is complete, along with the GASB-75 dental insurance audit. Receipt of the completed audit from Bowman and Company is pending.
- 8. All but five active department members are in compliance with NJ Division of Fire Safety minimum firefighter certification requirement. Two of the five members recently completed a required training class and are just awaiting the necessary certs from the Division of Fire Safety. **Request a Motion to suspend the authority to respond to fire calls for any active, non-probationary member, not in compliance with the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Minimum Firefighter Certification by January 1, 2024.**
- 9. As approved at the September meeting, and consistent with the recently adopted Joint Social Networking Policy, I contacted Chief Millisky and President Ardecki to request a list of all approved fire company social media sites and the identify of any members authorized to post to or edit the sites. Per the response received from President Ardecki, the only fire company approved sites are a Facebook page and the fire company website, and those with access are the following members of the Social Media Committee: Chief Millisky, Assistant Chief Scott, Firefighters Piepszowski, Pozniewski and Voulgarakis.
- 10. The Certification of Eligibles for Appointment to the position of Fire Captain has been received from the New Jersey Civil Service Commission, with a required date of disposition of January 2, 2024. As previously communicated, Richard Knight, with Disable Veteran status, scored #1 and Nicholas Procopio scored #2. As a result of closed session discussion at the October Special Meeting, I contacted our civil service commission representative and learned that, should the Board decide to create an additional Fire Captain position, a Resolution would need to be passed by the Board and approved by Mayor Mayer. It does not appear that any changes to the 2021-2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement would be necessary if a decision is made to add another Fire Captain position.
- 11. Fire Prevention Clerk Marianne Robb contacted New Jersey American Water Company to request a possible reduction to our August water bill for the shop / park, which was approximately 500% more than our usual monthly bill due to the broken lawn sprinkler pipe. Their response is pending.

12. After the September meeting I e-mailed the fire company trustees to advise them of the additional information requested by the Board regarding possible financial assistance for the purchase of a stair climber for the gym. No response has been received.
13. **Request adoption of the attached Resolution 23-31 regarding 2024 Fire Commissioner compensation.** Annual adoption of this resolution and approval by GT Council is required prior to submission of our 2024 budget to the state.
14. I'm pleased to report that we received \$2,405 in interest on our Money Market account for the month of September.
15. I participated in a Teams meeting on Tuesday with retired Chief Mike Hall and a representative of First Due to discuss the custom LOSAP report being developed for us. Significant progress has been made and I'm cautiously optimistic that the report will be in place for use in tracking LOSAP activity for the 2023-2024 LOSAP year.
16. Information for the 2024 budget continues to be developed. The deadline for submission of our introduced budget to the state is December 19, 2023. Suggest that budget workshops be scheduled over the next few weeks.

Closed Session: Personnel issue

