

The seven hundred and ninety eighth meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, District #2, Gloucester Township was held in the Chews Landing Fire Station on Wednesday, February 14th, 2024.

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

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, Donahue-yes

A motion was made by Grady and 2nd by Donahue 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 Township Chief's meeting. Topics discussed were riding assignments & guidelines, which were signed off on as well as township wide board up service recommendations. The Chief also reported that GTFD #1 has funding for a stipend program on their ballot which would staff 5 days a week for 8 hours per day. He also reported that Captain Procopio, FF Ritz and FF Foley will be receiving awards at the Hero Scholarship banquet on March 8th, and that the relief assn. green sheets have been submitted. Chief Millisky also mentioned a recently passed New Jersey law which will ban firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals, effective 2 years from the signing of the law. Based on information received from the New Jersey Division of fire Safety, it appears that the NJDEP will be handling the collection and disposal of all PFAS firefighting foam in the state, as it is considered toxic waste. Chief Millisky also reported that Blackwood Fire Company Asst. Chief Derr will have the command vehicle 1 week a month. He also advised that Chief Imielinski has authorized 82 duty crews to respond to any calls in 84's local, and that he is planning to add Station 82 to more of their response boxes.

Administrator's Report: Admin Robb reviewed the attached agenda. District Solicitor Carlamere recommends that the Board author a letter to NJ American Water Company, citing the safety concerns of obsolete Jones Snap fitting which are present on a number of hydrants in our fire district, and asking that the fittings be replaced with NST screw fittings as soon as possible. The fittings are no longer made and parts are unavailable. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the safety of firefighting foam currently carried on our apparatus.

Solicitor's Report: None

Group Report: "A" Building Maintenance, Park (K. Donahue) Comm. Donahue reminded all that the election is this Saturday, February 17th and to please get out to vote.

Group Report: "B" Fire Prevention, EMS (J. Reichert) Comm Reichert reviewed the Fire Prevention report supplied by Fire Official Young outlining that the annual LEA report was completed and submitted. He has a copy available for review

Group Report: "C" Apparatus & Equipment (R. Evans) Comm Evans reviewed the Station and Apparatus report supplied by Captain Procopio. Comm. Evans also reminded members that any issues with equipment or apparatus should be written up, as Captain Procopio is now here Monday thru Friday on day shift and the problems will be promptly addressed.

Group Report: "D" Insurance, Hydrants, Radios & Uniforms (L. Grady) None

Group Report: "E" Training, Personnel, Office (G. Genzel) Will be addressed in closed session

Old Business: None

New Business: A motion was made by Donahue and 2nd by Evans to approve the bills presented for payment this evening in the amount of \$60,322.48.

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

A motion was made by Donahue and 2nd by Reichert to accept the receipts presented this evening in the amount of \$6,096.39

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

A motion was made by Evans and 2nd by Donahue to approve Joint Administrative Policy 24-02 regarding call outs.

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

A motion was made by Genzel and 2nd by Reichert approving Janine Young as an election teller for the fire district elections this Saturday, with approved compensation of \$175.00.

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

A motion was made by Genzel and 2nd by Evans approving Asst. Chief Dave Haines attendance at the Staff & Command Training sponsored by the University of Maryland on March 3rd thru the 8th at a cost of \$2,075.00, which includes attendance and hotel accommodations. The motion also authorized a cash advance of \$600.00 to cover ancillary costs, with the stipulation that receipts be provided for any money spent and any remaining balance is returned to the district.

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

A motion was made by Donahue and 2nd by Grady to approve the low bid contract for annual lawn maintenance to VJ's Landscapes for \$5,565.00.

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

A Resolution was made by Donahue and 2nd by Evans removing obsolete turnout gear of 7 Globe GxTreme coats and 4 Globe GxTreme pants which will be donated to the 9/11 Fund, a 501c (3) non-profit corporation.

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

A motion was made by Donahue and 2nd by Evans to immediately discontinue use of the current firefighting foam due to safety concerns.

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

Good of the District: FF Jenkinson initiated a conversation regarding a housing ceremony for TL82 and provided a sample t-shirt that the fire department is interested in ordering for the occasion. It was requested that the fire district consider paying for the shirts. Further discussion was held regarding how many shirts to order and whether additional shirts should be ordered to offer for sale. FF Jenkinson estimated the cost would not exceed \$1,000.00. the board expressed interest in assisting with the purchase, but no motion was made, pending further details.

Comm. Reichert commented that he is working on the historical committee and revealed that the fire districts were formed by the township committee in 1957 and that the 1st budget was for \$40,000.00

Comm. Evans wanted to express his gratitude to Captain Procopio for his dedicated and diligent work in outfitting the new TL82, along with the fire company members, Admin Robb, Chief Millisky and Commissioner Reichert.

A motion was made by Evans and 2nd by Reichert to go into closed session at 8:09 pm to discuss personnel issues.

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

Topics discussed in closed session remain pending.

A motion was made by Evans and 2nd by Reichert to go back into open session 8:33 pm.

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

There being no other business a motion was made by Reichert and 2nd by Donahue to adjourn at 8:34 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Read and approved:

Chairman: *Serge Genzel*

Submitted:

Clerk: *Marianne Robb*

Date: 3/13/24

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

From: Bill Robb – Administrator

RE Meeting – February 14, 2024

1. Shared Service Program:

- a. Minutes of the January 18th meeting have been forwarded. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 15th at 7:00 pm at Station 82.
- b. 4th quarter 2023 shared services payments have been received from Districts 3 and 4.
- c. The necessary paperwork has been provided to the career staff and to the civil service commission for the Fire Captain's test. Eligible to take the test are FF's Ritz and Lindell.
 - i. The Shared Services Committee has again requested the Board to consider merging the D2 and D4 civil service hiring and promotional lists. The logic being that hired and promoted members are assigned to the Squad 88 program, which serves both districts equally.
- d. A discussion was held regarding the presence of Jones Snap fittings on a number of New Jersey American Water hydrants in our district. The fittings are no longer made and parts to repair our adapters are unavailable. In light of same, we are of the opinion that these fittings should be deemed obsolete and replaced with 2.5" NST fittings by the water company. We're seeking input from Solicitor Carlamere regarding options to address this with the water company.
- e. Several of our career firefighters who were certified as EMT's have allowed their certifications to lapse. The topic has been discussed at Shared Services meetings and the group feels that Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) certification may be more practical for the duties performed by our personnel. I'm in the process of researching the cost and availability of training in our area and will provide updates as received. Training duration appears to be 48 hours in length.
- f. The Board has been provided with the minutes of the January Squad 88 personnel meeting. As noted below, the report contains several topics that will need to be discussed by the Shared Services Committee and the D2 and D4 Boards of Fire Commissioners:
 - i. Authorization for Squad 88 members to display Squad 88 patches on their uniforms. Initial cost to the district would be \$235.00 for the patches and approximately \$500.00 to remove and replace the current patches.
 - ii. Shift Swaps
 - iii. Offer of trial responses to District 1
 - iv. Saturday training sessions
 - v. Formation of a Squad 88 truck committee. I spoke with Ed Miller today and current lead time for pumpers is about 48 months. There may be some upcoming LFB changes to allow districts to seek voter approval to expend funds

in a future year. If approved, districts could order the truck without having to secure financing until closer to the delivery date.

- vi. Staffing – it was noted that there has been recent movement away from the originally stated goal of having five firefighters on each of the platoons. Information is sought if there has been a formal decision of a new staffing model and/or if any future hires are planned.
 - vii. BCR Station Upgrades / Shared Costs
2. **Request a Motion to approve Joint Administrative Policy 24-002 Call Outs.** This policy establishes the procedure to be followed and notifications to be made in the event of a shift call out.
 3. Annual preventative maintenance of the overhead doors and the Plymovent system was recently completed.
 4. The upgrades to the Traffic Warning Signs were recently completed. This will hopefully increase the safety to our members when apparatus is exiting and entering the station.
 5. New TL82 Purchase – kudos to Captain Procopio for his efforts in coordinating the factory training, apparatus lettering and striping, and mounting of equipment on the rig, and to the career and volunteer staff for the time devoted to training on the rig as drivers and operators. Kudos also to Captain Gant for his assistance with training coordination and to FF Foley for his assistance to Captain Procopio with the equipment mounting.
 6. We're still awaiting a date from Wireless Communications for the programming of the portable and mobile radio aliases.
 7. All arrangements are in place for the annual election this Saturday from 2pm to 9pm. Incumbent Commissioners Genzel and Evans are running unopposed for three-year terms, and voters are being asked to approve an amount to be raised by taxation of \$2,294,606.92.
 - a. **Request a Motion to authorize Janine Young to serve as an Election Teller, and to be paid the sum of \$175.00.**
 - b. We received notice today from Melissa Ford of the DCA that a couple of minor corrections are needed for approval of our budget. Specifically, the recorded vote was not included in the Budget Amendment Resolution from January, and the vote was also missing from Page C-8 of the budget workbook. A corrected Resolution has been provided to Commissioner Donahue for his signature, and the corrected documents will be uploaded to the FAST portal tomorrow morning.
 8. The three recently purchased dash cameras were installed in R82, RE88 and the Duty Car on Monday. As of now, the only district vehicles without cameras are Utility 827, the FM82 vehicle and the shop truck.
 9. As approved by the Board, Assistant Chief David Haines will be attending the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute's Staff and Command Course in Annapolis, Md. From March 3 to March 8, 2024. **Request a Motion to authorize payment in the amount of \$2,075.00, which includes tuition and lodging, and a cash advance of \$600.00 to cover ancillary costs.** If the cash advance is approved, receipts for money spent will be provided by A/C Haines and any unused funds will be returned to the district.

10. Two quotes have been received for 2024 lawn care. **Request a Motion to approve a contract with V.J. Landscaping II of Blackwood, NJ for the low quote amount of \$5,565.00.**
11. On January 8, 2024, the New Jersey Senate passed Bill S2712, banning the manufacture, distribution and use of firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals. The ban takes effect two years from the date of adoption. It appears the state department of environmental protection is planning to handle disposal of fire department owned PFAS foam. The total amount in our inventory is 127.5 gallons (102.5 gallons in apparatus foam cells / Foam Pro, and 25 gallons in stock). Chief Millisky has been provided with the information needed to complete and return to NJDFS a survey of our foam inventory. The cost and options for replacement foam is not yet known. This topic is on the agenda for further discussion at the Shared Service Committee meeting tomorrow night to identify a possible interim policy to protect our firefighters from exposure to the foam until a permanent solution is determined.
12. I forgot to include in last month's report that on January 2, 2024, R82 was involved in a minor non-injury crash with a parked vehicle while responding to the Hartford Road dwelling fire. The incident was investigated by the Gt Police Department and reported to our insurance carrier. There was no damage to the rescue, and minor damage to the parked vehicle. A contributing factor noted on the police report was that the parked vehicle was partially obstructing the intersection.

Closed Session

Personnel