

The Board of Fire Commissioners, District #2, Gloucester Township held a workshop in the Chews Landing Fire Station on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

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.

Roll Call: Reichert-Present Genzel-Present Evans-Present Grady-Present Donahue-Present

Also in attendance was Administrator Robb and Chief Millisky

The commissioners discussed the items on the attached agenda prepared by the Fire District Administrator. Also discussed was future apparatus purchases.

A motion was made by Donahue and 2nd by Grady to adjourn at 8:55pm.

All in favor, motion carried.

Submitted by Administrator Robb

Read and Approved:

Chairman: *George Genzel*
Clerk: *Marion Robb*

Date: *3/13/24*

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

From: Bill Robb – Administrator

RE Workshop – March 5, 2024

1. Shared Service Program:

- a. Minutes of the February meeting have been forwarded. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 7:00 pm at Station 84.
- b. **D2, D4 and D6 representatives, along with representatives of IAFF Local 3249, have been working on an MOU / Policy to allow career firefighters from any of the three districts to swap all or portions of a shift when needed. I spoke with Labor Attorney Pete Frattarelli today and he doesn't see any concerns regarding FLSA or any other issues. If there are no objections from the Board, I hope to have a final draft of the MOA and policy for adoption consideration by the Board at next week's meeting.**
- c. Joint Administrative Policy 24-002 Call Outs has been approved by both districts. Same will be forwarded to the group and posted this week.
- d. 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.**
- e. 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. Per the recommendation of Solicitor Carlamere, I will work on a letter to New Jersey American Water Company.
- f. **Per the recently sent e-mail, I'm seeking a recommendation from the Board regarding the level of required EMS training for our career firefighters. Options are EMT, EMR or First Aid/O2, Bleeding Control and CPR/AED. Also need to discuss offered stipends.**
- g. 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 – draft MOU / Policy was discussed today with Pete Frattarelli. He doesn't see any issues with FLSA or otherwise.**
 - 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. As the Board is aware, an out-of-control civilian vehicle, operated by an allegedly intoxicated female, traveled onto our property in the early morning hours of Saturday, February 24th and struck Utility 827 and the steps into the building. The collision pushed 827 into the vehicle parking canopy, resulting in damage to same. The crash was investigated by the Gloucester Township Police Department, and Commissioner Grady, Captain Procopio and I have been working with Progressive Insurance Company for reimbursement of costs related to the crash.
- a. **The insurance company has deemed 827, a 2005 Ford Explorer a total loss, and has offered us compensation in the amount of \$5,035.18.**
 - b. **In light of same, I believe there are three options for the Board to consider;**
 - i. **Eliminate the vehicle from our fleet. While this option would save money, it would remove a vehicle that's available for use by the career staff during the day for inspections and other errands, and remove a vehicle frequently used by the volunteer staff for training schools, especially those that require PPE. The shop truck is 24 years old, difficult to drive, and not the best option for this use.**
 - ii. **Eliminate the Battalion vehicle from our fleet and reassign that vehicle (2010 Expedition) to the role formerly filled by 827. This would also result in a cost savings, but creates possible operational concerns and input from the Chief.**
 - c. **Purchase a new Chief's vehicle, reassign the 2018 Tahoe as the Battalion vehicle, and reassign the 2010 Expedition to the role formerly filled by 827. Total cost for the vehicle and upfit would likely be around \$70,000. We are permitted to make an Emergency Purchase to replace the totaled vehicle in an amount not to exceed 3% of our budget (\$75,000.00). Per Vince Passarella, the Restricted Fund balance at the beginning of this year was \$375,295.62. This option appears to be favored by Commissioner Evans and Captain Procopio and is consistent with past practice regarding utility vehicle purchases and assignments.**
3. New TL82 Purchase – per Captain Procopio, the necessary work to place the truck in service has been completed. In-service date is pending completion of training for drivers / operators.
4. We're still awaiting a date from Wireless Communications for the programming of the portable and mobile radio aliases.

5. The annual election was held on Saturday, February 17th. The budget passed with 416 Yes votes and 220 No votes. Chairman Genzel and Commissioner Evans ran unopposed and were elected to three-year terms. Congratulations to both.
6. As approved at last month's meeting, all foam appliances were removed from E82 and R82, and fire department members were advised of the Board's motion to suspend all use of firefighting foam until an alternative plan to procure and use PFAS free foam is developed. I have obtained from our vendors quotes for 15 gallons of PFAS free foam for the TFT foam Pro units and will work with Commissioner Evans and Chief Millisky on a purchase plan. We are still awaiting a response from D4 to determine if they're in favor of suspending use of the foam on Squad 88.