

The eight hundred and ninth meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, District #2, Gloucester Township was held in the Chews Landing Fire Station on Wednesday, January 8th, 2025.

Commissioners present were: Genzel, Reichert, Evans, Donahue and Grady Also present were Asst. Chief Haines, 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: Asst. Chief Haines reported how proud he was of the Squad 88 A Platoon members and our volunteer firefighters for their excellent handling of the ice rescue call at the Timber Creek Dog Park lake. The woman and her two dogs were rescued and all are doing well. She has commented that she would like to meet the firefighters involved in the rescue, which included Captain Knight, FF's Ritz, Lindell and Foley, Lt. Comisky and Jenkinson, and FF's Donahue, Barkley and Pozniewski. Asst. Chief Haines also reported that the department will be attending the funeral services of LT Michael Harkins on Saturday in class A uniforms.

Administrator's Report: Admin Robb reviewed the attached agenda

Solicitor's Report: None

Group Report: "A" Building Maintenance, Park (K. Donahue) No report

Group Report: "B" Fire Prevention, EMS (J. Reichert) Comm. Reichert reviewed the Fire Prevention report submitted by Fire Marshal Young.

Group Report: "C" Apparatus & Equipment (R. Evans) Comm. Evans provided updates on the new Chief's car and various improvements, maintenance around the station and on the apparatus. Comm. Evans also stated that the replacement hose has been ordered from Continental Fire & Safety.

Group Report: "D" Insurance, Hydrants, Radios & Uniforms (L. Grady) no report

Group Report: "E" Training, Personnel, Office (G. Genzel) Chairman Genzel advised that his topics will be handled in closed session as they pertain to personnel.

Old Business: Comm. Donahue provided the 2nd reading of the proposed 2025 operating budget. Chairman Genzel inquired if the public had any questions or wanted to make input. There were no comments from the public.

A motion was made by Donahue and 2nd by Evans to approve the 2025 Adopted Budget Resolution, Page C-8 of the budget.

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

A Resolution (25-01) was made by Donahue and 2nd by Evans to approve the creation of a temporary budget in the amount of \$353,485.00 which is 14% of our 2024 Operating Budget of \$2,524,889.37.

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

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 \$55,394.28

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

A motion was made by Donahue and 2nd by Grady to accept the receipts presented this evening in the amount of \$611.57

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

A motion was made by Evans and 2nd by Reichert to approve inclusion of two questions on the fire district election ballot for the future purchase of two fire trucks; a shared fire truck with GTFD #4 at a cost not to exceed 1.3 million dollars (to be split evenly between the two districts), and a fire truck to be funded solely by GTFD #2 at a cost not to exceed 1.3 million dollars, and to undertake jointly funded lease purchase financing or the issuance of notes and/or bonds relative to the project

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

Good of the District: LT Comisky questioned why the new gear ordered and received for himself and FF Donahue has "GTFD 82" on the back of the turnout coat in lieu of "Chews Landing, Station 82 or GTFD 2"? Comm. Evans replied that moving forward the Board is trying to anticipate future gear orders and in keeping with the other township fire departments, we are striving for similar identification on the turnout gear further elaborating that the GTFD 82 is indicative of "Gloucester Township Fire Department-Station 82). After a very long discussion about the lettering, the clarification of its meaning and the options it was put to a vote. It was noted that the determination of the lettering was handled by a joint committee of the Chief's, some commissioners, the IAFF Local 3249 and various other members of the departments. Noting that some of the other township departments have GTFD and the district number, Comm. Evans related that having "82" is more recognizable as the Chews Landing Fire Department rather than just the 2 for Gloucester Township Fire District 2.

A motion was made by Genzel to keep "GTFD 82" on this gear as well as future orders 2nd by Grady.

Roll Call: Reichert-no, Genzel-yes, Evans-yes, Grady-yes, Donahue-no Motion carried by a 3-2 vote in favor of maintaining the current lettering of GTFD 82.

A motion was made by Evans and 2nd by Reichert to go into closed session at 8:03pm

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

A motion was made by Genzel and 2nd by Reichert to go back into open session at 8:25pm.

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

Issues discussed in closed session remain pending.

There being no other business a motion was made by Genzel and 2nd by Evans to adjourn at 8:26pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Read and approved:

Chairman: Henry H. Genzel

Submitted:

Clerk: Marianne C. Cobb

Date: 2/12/2025

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

From: Bill Robb – Administrator

RE: Meeting – January 8, 2025

1. Shared Services / Interlocal Agreement Programs:

- a. The last meeting of the D2/D4 Shared Services Committee was held on Thursday, December 19th and the minutes were forwarded. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 16th at 7:00pm at Station 84.
- b. This morning, I prepared and sent out for review and comment a draft of the public questions for approval to purchase two fire trucks. We're required to post the questions in 10 public places prior to the February 15th election. Based on past conversations I included two questions; one for the shared purchase of a new Squad 88, and one for the purchase of a new truck to replace Engine 82 and Rescue 82. **Request a Motion to approve inclusion of the questions for the purchase of a shared fire truck with Fire District #4 at a cost not to exceed 1.3 million dollars, and the purchase of a fire truck to be funded solely by Fire District #2 at a cost not to exceed 1.3 million dollars.** The exact wording of the questions is pending review by D2 and D4 representatives, along with legal counsel. I also plan to work on updating the powerpoint presentation that was used in support of our 2021 apparatus purchase for distribution to the voters.
- c. The topic of a joint department or battalion chief position with Fire District #4 is pending further discussion.
- d. Subscription to the Curt Varone and Brad Pinsky Must Have Policies service is still pending.
- e. The 2024 4th quarter invoices for the D2 / D4 Squad 88 Shared Services costs have been exchanged. Per the below listed breakdown, D2 owes D4 a total of \$5,879.74:
 - i. Fuel – D2 owes D4 \$1,069.60
 - ii. Substitutes – None
 - iii. Career Staff OT – D2 owes D4 \$4,463.49
 - iv. C Platoon Supervision – D4 owes D2 \$1,912.39
 - v. Equipment and Maintenance – D2 owes D4 \$1,856.54 (includes Fit Test Machine purchase)
 - vi. Legal – D2 owes D4 \$402.50
- f. District 4 is planning to apply for a FEMA AFG grant for the replacement of their portable radios, and to use a grant writer to assist with the application. They are willing to apply for a regional grant, and have asked if our district is interested in participating, to include sharing in the cost for the grant writer. Our current stock of portable radios is from 2013, and the radios have reached their end of life, so this would be a worthwhile project. The next AFG grant application period will not be until later this year, so any fund expenditure for the 10% applicant match would likely not be needed until the 2026 budget year.
- g. The 2024 4th quarter Squad 88 Interlocal agreement invoice in the amount of \$5,000.00 has been forwarded to Fire District #3.

- h. Fire District #1 rejected our offer to provide coverage by Squad 88 seven days a week, 12 hours per day (6am to 6pm) in the 2025 calendar year at a cost of \$18,000, to be shared equally by Fire District #2 and Fire District #4. A meeting between representatives of each district to further discuss the topic is pending, with Chairman Genzel and Commissioner Reichert to represent Fire District #2.
 - i. The Interlocal Agreement between Fire Districts 2, 4 and 6 for Squad 88 to assist Fire District #6 with incidental calls for service has been approved by all three districts and is currently in effect. I spoke with Chief Brown yesterday, and he feels they are on track to fill their staffing needs prior to the February 28th agreement expiration.
2. Captain Giambri is in the process of programming the new TL82 MDC.
3. Upfitting of the new chief's vehicle continues.
4. Delivery of the seven sets of PPE for the career staff, purchased with funds from the American Rescue Grant, is expected this month. The D2 grant match of \$4,016 has been encumbered from the 2024 Grants Match line item.
5. The new office copier approved for purchase in December has been delivered and is in service. The replaced copier has been moved to the Line Officer's room, and the copier that had been used by the Line Officers was turned over to KDI Technology for disposal.
6. As approved at the December meeting, payment in the amount of \$17,284.89 has been forwarded to Lincoln Financial Life Insurance Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana, for deposit into the LOSAP accounts of eligible members.
7. **Request approval of attached Resolution 25-01 authorizing the creation of a temporary budget in the amount of \$353,485.00, which is 14% of our 2024 Operating Budget of \$2,524,889.37.**
8. The Chews Fire Company #1 has been advised of the decision by the Board at the December meeting to provide funding in the amount of \$6,740.00, which represents 50% of the cost of the building LED lighting upgrade project. Payment will be made to the fire company
9. The majority of the uniform items approved at the December meeting have been delivered.
10. The order for the helmets approved for purchase at the December meeting has been placed.
11. We have received approval from the state to move forward with our 2025 Operating Budget with no changes. Second reading of budget and public comment: Total appropriations of \$2,832,827.00, with the total amount to be raised by taxation of \$2,484,436.00.
12. I am pleased to report that the crew of Squad 88 / A Platoon was involved in the successful rescue of a female who had fallen into the pond at the Timber Creek Dog Park on Sunday, January 5, 2025. The female was completely submerged in the icy water when approached by Firefighters Ritz and Lindell, and was not breathing when pulled from the water with assistance from Captain Knight and FF Foley. Captain Knight briefly performed CPR on the victim on shore, which resulted in her breathing on her own. Chief Millisky served as the incident commander, and the crew of Rescue 82 assisted with carrying the victim to the Gloucester Township Pool, where she was eventually turned over to EMS personnel for transport to the hospital. At last report, the victim is in stable condition and expected to make a full recovery. Please join me in thanking and congratulating the firefighters for their heroic efforts which resulted in the saving of a life.