

**BTFD #2 SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
April 4, 2023**

Meeting Called to Order 7:00 pm at the BTFD#2 Fire House.

Salute to the Flag and Moment of Silence observed

ROLL CALL By Secretary acting as Chair:

George Chidley, Present, Andrew Law Absent, Fred Freda, Present, George Gareis, Absent, Jim Cann, Present.

**READING OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT:
By Secretary (see Agenda)**

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Chair Jim Cann requested that if the Board Members present were satisfied with the accuracy of the minutes for a motion to to approve the Minutes for:
- March 7, 2023 Regular Meeting

Fred Freda made a Motion to approve the minutes for the above stated date and the motion was Seconded by Andrew Law. A ballot was taken. All members present affirmed the motion to approve the minutes for March 7, 2023.

REPORT BY CHIEF BTFD#2:

The Chief, Robert MacFarland will be reporting training hours and provide a list of Officers Reports on a monthly basis. In addition, the Chief advised that there were 8 calls to assist by NJ Turnpike Authority (NJTPA). At a recent Burlington County Fire Chiefs meeting the topic of payment by NJTPA came up. No one appears to have copies of agreements defining any conditions on terms of service by Fire Districts. The consensus is that the NJTPA pays \$160 per call with a \$300 per month retainer to be paid when there is a fire. There is no clear understanding of any State statutes that would require Fire Districts to respond to all calls. The Chief agreed to research further and report back on the matter. Fire Commissioners expressed concern that the number of non-fire related calls divert the Fire District resources from serving the Township. Further, the NJTPA calls frequently require the Fire District to seek coverage under mutual aid agreements from other Fire Districts. In particular the length of time and difficulty accessing the NJ Turnpike and use of our Fire Trucks to reroute traffic and increased risk/liability in utilizing Fireman to divert traffic on a major highway is of great concern to the Fire Commissioners.

The Chief requested approval to purchase an exhaust monitor hose for \$339.40 and to purchase 8 sets of Turnout Gear for \$23,715.44. Jim Cann, Chair requested a motion to authorize the purchase. Fred Freda made the motion to approve and Andrew Law Seconded the motion. A ballot was taken. All members present affirmed the motion to approve the purchase.

REPORT BY TREASURER:

Fred Freda, Commissioner presented a report with 16 bills totaling \$21,917.31 A motion was made by Andrew Law and seconded by George Chidley to accept the report. A ballot was taken. All members present affirmed the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.

RESOLUTIONS:

Chair Jim Cann requested that a motion to table **Resolution 2023-005** pending further action by Robert MacFarland, Chief and Jim Cann, Chair to meet with the Solicitor. A motion was made by Fred Freda and Seconded by Andrew Law. A ballot was taken. All members present affirmed the motion to table **Resolution 2023-005**.

OLD BUSINESS:

Follow-up to Fire Commissioners request at the March meeting, Robert MacFarland, Chief confirmed that Bordentown Township is no longer seeking to use the Fire District Facility to house the EMS vehicles and staff.

Continued discussion to meeting with the Solicitor on outstanding matters including Architect services, Tax Revenues Collected by Bordentown Township and not turned over to the Fire District. Meeting to be setup by Robert MacFarland and attended by Fire Commissioners Cann and Chidley. An update report will be given at the May 2, 2023 meeting.

Robert MacFarland, Chief reported the need to update language and verify costs in the Architects Contract for restroom upgrades and will followup after meeting with the Solicitor.

A report on the revenue short falls was provided by Robert MacFarland, Chief based on Bordentown Township records posted on the municipal website and the 2023 CNC3 Form prepared by the Fire District.

NEW BUSINESS:

Robert MacFarland Chief reported that Bordentown Township has hired a new Tax Assessor will be scheduling a meeting by the Chief and Jim Cann Chair to discuss tax calculation shortfall.

OPEN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Jim Cann requested a motion to open the meeting to the public. A motion was made by Andrew Law and Seconded by George Chidley to open the meeting to public comment. A ballot was taken. All members present affirmed the motion to open the meeting for public comment.

Bill Grayson, Committeeman Bordentown Township asked for clarification on CNC3 form related to Fire district Budget. It was explained by Chair Jim Cann that it is an annual State budget Form. Copies of the form were provided to the Committeeman by Robert MacFarland Chief. It was also asked if the purchase new fire truck would be on the ballot? The response from the Chair was it was 50/50 until issues of the budget and revenues from the Township are worked out it was not clear if the Fire District could apply for short term financing. Committeeman Grayson asked about revenues from

the NJ Turnpike Authority for Fire District Emergency Services. It was explained by Robert MacFarland Chief that the revenues were hard to track as the NJTPA did not itemize bills. Chief MacFarland is investigating the matter including seeking copies of the Agreement with Local Governments to provide services and will report back to the Fire Commissioners at a later date.

CLOSED SESSION:

At 8:14 pm Chair Jim Cann requested a motion to adopt RESOLUTION 2023-012 to go into Closed Session meeting not open to the public for the purpose of discussing employee contract negotiations. A motion was made by Fred Freda and Seconded by Andrew Law. All members present affirmed the motion to go into Closed Session. The Chief provided a copy of a April 4, 2023, Confidential and Privileged Memorandum from Fire Commission Solicitor Caitlin Harney, Esq. Entitled "Fire District Tax collection Issues and Upcoming Contracts" for review in Closed Session.

MOTION TO REOPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

At 8:51 pm the meeting was reopened to the public. Chair Jim Cann requested a motion to adjourn. A Motion to adjourn was made by Fred Freda and Seconded by Andrew Law. A ballot was taken and all members present affirmed the motion to adjourn.

MINUTES APPROVED ON APRIL 4, 2023

George Chidley____

Fred Freda ____

George Gareis____

Andrew Law ____

Jim Cann ABSTAIN

CERTIFIED BY:

George Chidley, Secretary
BTFD#2 Board of Fire Commissioners

Jim Cann, Chair
BTFD#2 Board of Fire Commissioners