

**BTFD #2 SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
March 7, 2023**

Meeting Called to Order 7:10 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, Present, Jim Cann, Absent.

NOTE: Andrew Law joined the meeting from his home via telephone at 7:15. Meeting continued to be Chaired by George Chidley

READING OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT:

By Secretary/Acting Chair (see Agenda)

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Acting Chair George Chidley requested that if the Board Member present were satisfied with the accuracy of the minutes for a motion to approve the Minutes for:

- February 7, 2023 Regular Meeting

George Gareis made a Motion to approve the minutes for the above stated dates and the motion was Seconded via telephone by Andrew Law. A ballot was taken. Fred Freda abstained as he was absent from the February meeting. All remaining members present and attending by telephone affirmed the motion to approve the minutes for February 7, 2023.

REPORT BY CHIEF BTFD#2:

Robert MacFarland, Chief reported that he had met with representatives from Sen. Corey Booker's Office to discuss potential sources of funding for a new Fire Truck estimated to be more than \$1M. The feedback was positive and the Chief and Chair will followup.

There was also discussion of the potential to apply for Federal Funding under the Rural Development Loan Program at a rate of 3.75% APR over a 10 year loan period. The Chief and Commissioner Law will compile the required information for a Pre-Application for Federal Assistance that would allow BTFD#2 to complete the forms.

REPORT BY TREASURER:

Fred Freda, Commissioner presented a report with 16 bills totaling \$15,117.75 to the Fire Commissioners present. A motion was made by Andrew Law via telephone and seconded by George Gareis to accept the report. A ballot was taken. All members present and attending by telephone affirmed the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.

The following purchases were proposed by Fred Freda, Commissioner and Robert MacFarland Chief:

EMS Supplies \$1,064.58
Misc. Supplies \$575.38
Saw Blades \$128.82

Acting Chair George Chidley requested that a motion to approve the aforementioned items. A motion was made by Andrew Law via telephone and seconded by George Gareis to approve the purchases. A ballot was taken. All members present and attending by telephone affirmed the motion to approve purchase of EMS Supplies, Misc. Supplies and Saw Blades.

RESOLUTIONS:

Acting Chair George Chidley requested that a motion to table **Resolution 2023-005** pending further action by Robert MacFarland, Chief and Jim Cann, Chair to schedule the Solicitor to attend the April 4, 2023 BTFD#2 Regular Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Law via telephone and Seconded by Fred Freda. A ballot was taken. All members present and attending by telephone affirmed the motion to table **Resolution 2023-005**.

OLD BUSINESS:

Attorney must complete review of the Architects contract for bathroom renovations. Robert MacFarland, Chief will follow-up. Attorney will be invited to the April 4, 2023 meeting to discuss. In addition the Attorney will again be invited to discuss the Draft Labor Contract. Acting Chair and the Commissioners expressed their displeasure with the lack of responsiveness and timeliness of the Solicitor to BTFD#2 inquiries. Robert MacFarland, Chief and Jim Cann, Chair will followup with the Solicitor. Acting Chair Chidley agreed to assist if the Chair was not available.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was a brief discussion related to the Mutual Aid Agreements was presented by Robert MacFarland Chief. It was decided that the Chief will review the matter further with George Chidley, Commissioner at a future date. In addition, discussion of plans for renovations, repairs to the roof and bathrooms will be held until after the April 4, 2023 meeting.

CLOSED SESSION:

Acting Chair George Chidley requested that in the absence of Jim Cann, Chair and the Solicitor that there was no need to adopt RESOLUTION 2023-007 to go into Closed Session meeting not open to the public for the purpose of discussing employee contract negotiations. All members present and attending by telephone affirmed that the closed session matter would be rescheduled for the April 4, 2023 Regular meeting.

OPEN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Acting Chair George Chidley requested a motion to open the meeting to the public. A motion was made by Fred Freda and Seconded by George Gaeris 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 APR rate for the Rural Development Loans. Response from Andrew Law, Commissioner was 3.75%. No additional members of the public stepped forward on any other matter. A motion was made by George Gaeris and

Seconded by Andrew Law to close the public comment. A ballot was taken. All members present affirmed the motion to close the meeting for public comment.

Acting Chair George Chidley requested a motion to adjourn. A Motion to adjourn was made by Fred Freda and Seconded by George Gaeris. A ballot was taken and all members present and attending by telephone affirmed the **motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm.**

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

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