

The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1
In the Township of South Brunswick
Regular Monthly Meeting
November 13, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1, in the Township of South Brunswick, was called to order at 6:30 p.m., by Chairman William Orchard, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call:

Members present: Commissioners, Berezansky, Hohmeier, Olson, Orchard and Josephson.

Members absent: none

Flag Salute: completed

Agenda Changes: none

Address from the Public: none

Approval of October Regular Meeting Minutes: Mr. Hohmeier made a motion to accept the minutes, as presented, and Mr. Josephson seconded it. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Reports:

Line Activities – Chief Perez reported the following:

- Stats for the month were not available, however he stated that it was a busy month and should surpass the number of calls from last year by about 7%.

President's Report – Mr. Melchesky was not at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report/Voucher List – Ms. Berezansky presented the report (file copy attached) and noted that all the bills had been paid, including payroll. After review of Voucher List, Mr. Olson made a motion to approve it and Mr. Hohmeier seconded it. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report – Mr. Olson had nothing to report.

Fire Coordinator's Report – Mr. Perez reported the following:

- All insurances were paid this month. There was a small increase in Workman's Comp and auto policies.
- The Family Assistance Program was added to the other insurance policies.
- All maintenance on trucks on included this month. The Ladder Truck will go out next week for testing. It should take about 3 or 4 days.

Chairman's Report – Mr. Orchard had nothing to report.

Standing Committee Reports –

Fire Company Liaison – nothing to report.

Rescue Squad Liaison – nothing to report.

Public Relations – no report.

State Association – there was no report, as no one attended the meeting.

Insurance – as previously stated, all insurances are paid up.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business – 2024 Budget: Mr. Perez reported the following regarding the budget numbers he and the Auditor had but together. He noted some of the increases.

- Accounting Services were increased due to the increased workload they will have in 2024.
- Substation Improvements increased, as the heater will probably need to be replace.
- Grounds Care increased, as a new landscaper will be needed in 2024.
- Communications Costs increased due to normal cost increases.
- Dues & Subscriptions increased due to an added new subscription.
- Equipment Maintenance & Repairs increased: the trucks are getting older and require more maintenance to keep them running smoothly.
- Office Supplies & Postage increased, as postal rates have gone up.
- Uniforms – this increase was necessary to purchase uniforms for the new paid firefighter.

These increases are about \$230K over the 2023 operating budget. The large increase is mainly due to the hiring of a full-time firefighter and a per diem employee which amounts to \$155K.

Discussion turned to Capital Projects: Ladder Truck refurb in the amount of \$325K, which hopefully would keep the truck running for another 10 years. Due to supply issues, it was suggested to delay the refurb until 2025.

Two other Capital Projects that need to be addressed are replacing the generator and replacing two Chiefs cars. The cost of the generator will not be available until the Board goes out for bid. The two cars would be about \$210K.

After a brief discussion on the issues above, Mr. Perez recommended that the Board hold off on the Ladder Truck refurb until 2025 and purchase the generator and cars in 2024. The Board agreed with Mr. Perez's recommendations. He will have everything for next month's meeting, including his pay increase and the amount that probably be received from the sale of the old engine (around \$95K).

New Business continued: Resolution 23/24-14 – Authorizing Annual Salaries for members of the Board of Fire Commissioners for 2024. They will be \$3000 for the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Commissioner. The Treasurer will be \$5000.

Mr. Hohmeier made a motion to approve the Resolution and Mr. Josephson seconded it. A roll call vote was taken: Ms. Berezansky-yes; Mr. Olson-yes, Mr. Orchard-yes; Mr. Josephson-yes; Mr. Hohmeier-yes. The resolution passed unanimously.

Executive Session: none

Address from the Public: none

Adjournment: As there was no further business to discuss, Mr. Hohmeier made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Olson seconded it. A vote was taken and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie R. L. Knigge

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