

The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1  
In the Township of South Brunswick  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
December 13, 2021

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 6:32 p.m. by Chairman William Orchard, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings act.

**Roll Call:**

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

Members absent: none

**Flag Salute:** completed

**Agenda Changes:** none

**Address from the Public:** none

**Approval of November Regular Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Josephson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Olson seconded it. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

**Reports:**

Line Activities – Chief Perez reported the following:

- Stats for the month will be provided shortly.
- The Ladder Truck should be back tomorrow and the majority of the issues have all be repaired.

Treasurer's Report/Voucher List – Ms. Berezansky presented the report (file copy attached) and she noted that all bills had been paid.

Mr. Perez read into the record Resolution 20/21-17: Transfer of Funds:

\$4K from Lt. Program to Insurance Casualty

\$1K from Elections to Dues & Subscriptions

\$4K from Ladder Hose Testing to Station 23 Grounds

\$1,500 from LOSAP to Communications

After review of the Voucher List, Mr. Olson made a motion to approve it as presented and Mr. Josephson 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:

1. Insurance is up to date.
2. The website has been updated.
3. Budget is completed for next year.
4. The Election will be 2/19/22 and the County will be handling the advertising and the ballots for the Election. The District is responsible for normal local advertising, postings and voting machines. There is also an increase in the cost of the poll workers.

Chairman's Report - Mr. Orchard reported that the Fire Marshall's are no longer going to handle daytime call and noted that with the Fire Company's man-power low, it will mean providing per diem for each daytime call. That will need to be included in the 2022 Budget.

Standing Committee Reports –

*Fire Company Liaison* – nothing to report.

*Rescue Squad Liaison* – nothing to report.

*Public Relations* – nothing to report.

*State Association* – meeting will be held sometime in December.

*Insurance* – everything is paid up.

**Unfinished Business:** none

**New Business: 2022 Budget:** Mr. Perez highlighted the Budget issues:

\$200,000 was added for the Capital Expenditure, which increased the budget by only .07%, which keeps the tax rate flat.

As for the Per Diem, there is \$30,000 per the Fire Marshall Agreement. Mr. Orchard noted that would not be enough to have 3-4 per diem firefighters, which he estimates will be about \$120,000. Per Mr. Braslow, the District does have to go over the cap, if per diem is used, which could be raised by taxation. The Commissioners agreed that the money should be pulled from the Fire Marshall Agreement. A resolution will be prepared.

The Commissioners discussed the option of contracting with District 3 to provide coverage during the day. Mr. Perez stated that he believes they would be willing to

enter into some negotiations, to see how it could benefit both District 1 and 3. He also stated, that it would be a faster solution that could be re-visited should a permanent solution be needed. Mr. Orchard noted that the costs must be included in the 2022 Budget. Mr. Hohmeier agreed, the District should not be cut short, money-wise. Mr. Perez stated that he is confident that adequate monies will be available.

Mr. Perez read into the record Resolution 21/22-16: Authorizing the Budget to be Introduced (draft copy attached). He highlighted that the Amount to be Raised by Taxation is \$873,750.00., which keeps the tax rate flat.

**Executive Session:** There was a brief Executive Session.

**Address from the Public:** none

**Adjournment:** As there was no further business to discuss, Mr. Olson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie R. L. Knigge

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