

EVESHAM TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
BOARD OF FIRE COMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
July 13, 2023
MINUTES

President Guerrini called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Evesham Township Fire District No. 1 to order at 6:30 PM at Station 221. President Guerrini welcomed all in attendance. He opened the meeting with a flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance and a traditional moment of silence for those that have gone before us. The following statement of compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was given by Business Manager Maureen Mitchell: “This meeting is being held in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was transmitted to the Burlington County Times and Central Record on December 12, 2022, filed with the Township Clerk of the Township of Evesham, posted on the bulletin board in the Fire Administration Office that is customarily used for the posting of such notices and mailed to all persons requesting that they receive such notice.”

ROLL CALL - The following individuals were present at the roll call, Commissioners: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini and Smith. Also present were: Chief Carl Bittenbender, Deputy Chief Freedman, Deputy Chief Donnelly, Solicitor Saginario, and Business Manager Maureen Mitchell. ABSENT: Rowe

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

Commissioner Behnke made a motion that the minutes of the May 11, 2023 Regular Meeting & Executive Session, June 8, 2023 Regular Meeting & Executive Session and June 20, 2023 Special Meeting be approved. Commissioner Baugh seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion produced the following result: AYES, Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, and Smith; NAYS: None; ABSTAINED: Smith (May 11th Reg & ES); ABSENT, Rowe.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The following report for the month of June 2023 was submitted by the Treasurer for approval:

Treasurer's Report for the period ended:
June 30, 2023

Beginning Cash Balance	7,442,983.91
Cash Receipts	155,049.00
Cash Disbursements	<u>(783,978.90)</u>
Ending Cash Balance	<u><u>6,814,054.01</u></u>

Commissioner Smith made a motion accepting the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Commissioner Behnke seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a unanimous roll call vote of the members present.

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APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

BILL LIST
July 13, 2023

ELAN (P-CARD)	\$ 8,194.76	
Heartland	1,431.75	
Payroll #12, & 13	452,402.95	
Payroll Deductions Payable	91,941.50	
NJ Pension & Benefits - Deductions	64,860.94	
NJ Pension & Benefits -SHBP	72,815.62	
TD Bond Interest	2,972.20	
Bill List Dated: 6/27/23	751.01	
Bill List Dated: 7/13/23	150,153.62	
TOTAL PAYMENTS THIS PERIOD		<u>\$ 845,524.35</u>

Commissioner Behnke made a motion to approve the payment of bills as contained on the Bill List Report. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a unanimous roll call vote of the members present.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Bittenbender gave a very brief verbal summary of his report that was previously provided to the Board of Fire Commissioners, considering his upcoming PowerPoint presentation of the Fleet Management Plan.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – None

BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT - Ms. Mitchell gave a verbal report where she discussed the Cell Tower RFP, where one noncompliant RFP was received, the recent sale of a Chevy Tahoe and the upcoming Budget timeline.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY – None

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2023 – 43 Resolution Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property at Auction

Commissioner Behnke made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2023 – 43. Commissioner Baugh seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, and Smith; NAYS: None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: Rowe.

Resolution No. 2023 – 44 Resolution to Promote FF/EMT to FF/EMT/Inspector

Commissioner Baugh made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2023 – 44. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion

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produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, and Smith; NAYS: None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: Rowe.

Resolution No. 2023 – 45 Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Full Time
Firefighter/EMTs

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2023 – 45
Commissioner Baugh seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion
produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini and Smith; NAYS:
None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: Rowe.

Resolution No. 2023 – 46 Resolution Amending the Fee Schedule for Emergency
Medical Services

Commissioner Behnke made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2023 – 46.
Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion
produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, and Smith; NAYS:
None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: Rowe.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Fleet Management Plan Presentation:

Chief Bittenbender gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed changes to the Fleet Management Plan. The Chief asked the Board to capitalize on the sale of 2215 to utilize the revenue proceeds in the 2024 Budget. The current buildout timeline for new apparatus is approximately 24-30 months so the Chief hoped to have an apparatus committee together in the fall of 2023 to design the 2215 replacement so that the Board would be in a position to award a bid from the 2024 Capital plan in January 2024. The Chief and Command Staff recommend a ladder with water to replace 2215. Similar to what the Board did when they sold engines and replaced them with the Quint, which is more engine than ladder but still serves a dual purpose. The Chief indicated that the current Quint has more miles on in a year than 2215 which was put into service in 2014. As requested by Commissioner Rowe, Deputy Chief Freedman received a cost estimate to refurbish 2215 and add water which was approximately \$1.2-1.4 million dollars with only new warranties on the pump, and tank but the engine would still be out of warranty since no work would be done to the engine or electrical system. The Chief outlined his recommendation for a tiller style replacement to handle the tight turning radius and limited access to of many if the new high-rise buildings in town.

Commissioner Behnke asked out the depreciation method used by the District and the Business Manager indicated that the District utilizes a straight-line method.

Commissioner Behnke asked if the tiller model required additional personnel to operate it and the Chief indicated that it required the same number of personnel and that a CDL was not required under the current NJ laws.

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Commissioner Behnke asked the Chief how other neighboring communities, like Cherry Hill addressed the restricted access issues. The Chief indicated that Cherry Hill operates on a different model with 5 companies to respond.

Commissioner Behnke asked the Chief how many times we have fallen short of meeting the task with our current apparatus compliment. The Chief indicated that he did not have those statistics but if it is zero, he wants to keep it at zero with the new construction challenges the District is seeing with new developments being built and those on the planning horizon.

President Guerrini asked about the projected cost increase that have been seen on ladders over the last several contracts. The Chief indicated that last year was 1.75-2% increase in price – as it seems to be slowing down now that the supply chain issues are resolving.

The Chief indicated that if the District went with a tiller style ladder that they would look to acquire a older used tiller to train on while the new one was being built. The District would bring in a company to “Train the Trainer” which is usually included in the price of the Ladder.

Commissioner Baugh asked if the sale of 2215 could be put off until to next meeting and the Chief indicated that he wasn’t sure if the potential buyer would still be interested at that date as they have an immediate need for a replacement.

Commissioner Baugh asked the Chief about his difficulties with the current Quint. The Chief indicated that we compromised to get water and a ladder due to the increase in concurrent calls we need both water and access.

Deputy Chief Donnelly mentioned that at last report the Quint already had 9,569 miles on it and was placed into service just over a year ago, while the 2215 Ladder only has 8,314 and was placed into service in 2014.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Sale of 2215 – Commissioner Baugh made a motion to table the sale of 2215. Commissioner Behnke seconded the motion to table. AYES: Baugh, Behnke, and Smith; NAYS: Guerrini; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: Rowe.
2. Policy review and approval:
 - a. 100 Disclaimer and Acknowledgement of At-will Employment
 - b. 101 Policy Manual Framework
 - c. 102 Introduction and Philosophy and Goals
 - d. 103 Mission, Vision, Values
 - e. 104 Member Code of Ethics
 - f. 200 Fire Service Authority
 - g. 301 Organization Name and Abbreviations
 - h. 302 Emergency Action Plan

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Commissioner Behnke made a motion to approve Policies A-H above. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, and Smith; NAYS: None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: Rowe.

MEMBERSHIP

1. New members: Erin Jackson

Commissioner Behnke made a motion to approve the new member. Commissioner Baugh seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a unanimous roll call vote of the members present.

2. Termination of membership: Nicholas Mazzone and Tyquan White
Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the termination of membership for the above-named individuals. Commissioner Behnke seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a unanimous roll call vote of the members present.

3. Promote:

- a. Bryan Lindh & Keith Harrison to Lieutenant
- b. Brian Davis, Acting Lieutenant

Commissioner Behnke made a motion to approve the promotions listed above. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a unanimous roll call vote of the members present.

GOOD & WELFARE – President Guerrini mention that he was at the Burlington County Fire Chiefs Association’s Valor Awards on June 29th and several of our members were honored, specifically:

Unit Citations:

For a motor vehicle/pedestrian accident in Evesham Twp:

Chief Carl Bittenbender, FF Bryce Priggemeier, FF Andrew Komito

For a motor vehicle accident in Medford Lakes:

R2218- Captain Anthony Cappetta, FF Keith Harrison, FF Bryan Lindh, FF Steve Wolfe
BLS2271 EMTs -Courtney Kerr, Emily Zadroga

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Guerrini opened the Public Comment section of the meeting.

1. Lt. Dave Fell spoke about his co-worker, who was praising the Evesham Fire District for their excellent work during the recent forest fires in protecting their homes in Kings Grant and the surrounding area. The Firefighters were successful in keeping the flames from reaching their homes.
2. Councilman Mark Kirchgasser from Middletown Township spoke on behalf of Middletown Township as the proposed purchaser of 2215. He noted that they recently experienced 95% catastrophic loss of their ladder apparatus which has prompted their repeated bids on 2215. He indicated that he was prepared to offer additional compensation due to the insurance offer they have received on their damaged apparatus. He indicated that their need was urgent and if the sale wasn’t entered into tonight they would have to investigate other options.

