

EVESHAM TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
 BOARD OF FIRE COMISSIONERS
 Regular Meeting
 September 28, 2023
 MINUTES

President Guerrini called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Evesham Township Fire District No. 1 to order at 6:32 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, Rowe, and Smith. Also present were: Chief Carl Bittenbender, Deputy Chief Donnelly, Solicitor Saginario, and Business Manager Maureen Mitchell.
 ABSENT: None

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

BILL LIST
 September 28, 2023

Payroll #19	\$ 247,254.46
Bill List Dated: 9/28/23	<u>33,111.26</u>
 TOTAL PAYMENTS THIS PERIOD	 <u>\$280,365.72</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 – None

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – None

BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT – Manager Mitchell gave a brief summary of her written report, previously provided to the Board. Manager Mitchell advised the Board that since the Fall Festival was canceled by the Township due to weather there is a resolution on tonight’s agenda to refund every vendor’s fire safety permit fee. The Manager also advised the Board that she had an upcoming meeting next week scheduled with the District’s LSRP to discuss the current DEP issues at Station 221.

Evesham Township Fire District No. 1
Minutes – September 28, 2023

–
PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY – None

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2023 - 57 Resolution Awarding a Contract for Brush Truck

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2023 – 57.
Commissioner Behnke seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, Rowe, and Smith; NAYS: None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: None

Resolution No. 2023 - 58 Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Per Diem EMTs

Commissioner Baugh made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2023 – 58.
Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, Rowe, and Smith; NAYS: None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: None

Resolution No. 2023 - 59 Authorizing the Refund of Payments for Fire Safety Permit

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2023 – 59.
Commissioner Baugh seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, Rowe, and Smith; NAYS: None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: None

NEW BUSINESS –

1. 2024 Budget Discussion - Manager Mitchell advised the Budget impact analyses that were requested by the Board's last meeting were in the agenda packets. There is one with the cost to hire 6 FT EMTs and one to reopen Station 225. There were no questions from the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Employee Engagement Survey – Manager Mitchell indicated that she received one response to the RFP request which proposed a three-year engagement period which far exceeds the available funding. President Guerrini made a motion to reject the RFP and readvertise for a one-year proposal. Commissioner Rowe asked if we could ask for a one-year period with an option to renew. Commissioner Behnke asked if we could ask the proposer to present a plan at an upcoming meeting. Solicitor Saginario suggested Manager Mitchell reach out to the proposer and see if they could complete a proposal in a one-year time as we only have 3 classes of employees.

Manager Mitchell was advised to contact the proposer and ask: Can they complete the project in one year? Can they provide a revised proposal detailing a one-year program? Manager Mitchell will call the references provided to see how much of a lift was their proposal for their employees and what was the size if their organization in comparison to ours.

Evesham Township Fire District No. 1
Minutes – September 28, 2023

MEMBERSHIP – None

GOOD & WELFARE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Powers addressed the Board and stated that it was brought to his attention that the Board of Fire Commissioners Board Minutes were not up to date on the website. He also referenced an email he sent the Board on June 15, 2023 in relation to his assertion that Chief Bittenbender made false statements. He also mentioned that he believed the Chief was sharing his election petition and cautioned that no one should be harassed based on this.

Manager Mitchell thanked Mr. Powers for bringing this issue to her attention and advised that any missing minutes on the website was an oversight and she would upload any missing information tomorrow morning.

ADJORNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2023 – 60 Executive Session – Personnel

President Guerrini indicated that the board anticipates going into executive session for @ 120 minutes. The board will take no action when we reconvene in public session.

Commissioner Behnke made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2023 - 60. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion produced the following result: AYES, Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, Rowe, and Smith; NAYS, None; ABSTAINED: none; ABSENT; None.

President Guerrini adjourned to executive session at 7:02pm.

RETURN TO PUBLIC

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Guerrini made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Baugh seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a unanimous roll call vote of the members present.

President Guerrini adjourned the meeting at 9:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mitchell
Business Manager