

EVESHAM TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
BOARD OF FIRE COMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting
April 8, 2021
MINUTES

Commissioner John Behnke called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Evesham Township Fire District No. 1 to order at 7:32 PM. President Behnke welcomed all in attendance to our first live meeting in a while and thanked everyone for joining us tonight. He opened the meeting with a flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance. 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 15, 2020, 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."

ROLL CALL - The following individuals were present at the roll call, Commissioners: Baugh, Behnke, Powers and Smith. Also present were: Deputy Chiefs Donnelly & Freedman, Solicitor Saginario and Business Manager Maureen Mitchell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

Commissioner Powers made a motion that the minutes of the March 11, 2021 Regular Meeting and Executive Session be approved. Commissioner Baugh seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion produced the following result: AYES, Baugh, Powers and Smith; NAYS, none; ABSTAINED: Behnke; ABSENT, Guerrini.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The following report for the month of March 2021 was submitted by the Treasurer for approval:

Treasurer's Report for the period ended:	
March 31, 2021	
Beginning Cash Balance	6,400,553.70
Cash Receipts	154,353.38
Cash Disbursements	<u>(471,306.04)</u>
Ending Cash Balance	<u><u>6,083,601.04</u></u>

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

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BILL LIST	
April 8, 2021	
ELAN (P-CARD)	\$2,430.32
HEARTLAND	478.85
STATE OF NJ	182.00
Bill List Dated: 4/8/21	<u>1,656,874.30</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS THIS PERIOD	<u><u>\$1,659,965.47</u></u>

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

CHIEF’S REPORT - Deputy Chief Donnelley read Chief Bittenbender’s report that was previously provided to the Board of Fire Commissioners. Deputy Chief updated the Board on the COVID vaccine status. He updated the Board on the EMT and Fire hiring process. Deputy Chief Freeman gave a brief update on Capital Projects.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – Solicitor Saginario mentioned that he had provided the Board with updates on a few personnel matters that were referred to him. He also mentioned he was still following the ever changing COVID restrictions, most recently the changes to the Travel restrictions.

BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT - Ms. Mitchell gave a verbal summary of her report that was previously provided to the Board of Fire Commissioners. Ms. Mitchell touched on the Capital Projects already covered by the Chief’s report.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

President Behnke opened the Public Comment section for the agenda items only.

There were no comments from any members of the public so President Behnke closed the public portion on agenda items only.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2021 – 25 Approving the Retirement of Firefighter Inspector Brandon Shingleton

Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve Resolution Numbers 2021 – 25. Commissioner Baugh seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Powers and Smith; NAYS: None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: Guerrini.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Standard of Cover – President Behnke said he would like to have the Chief update the Standard of Cover for potential adoption at the June meeting. Commissioner Powers indicated that he felt that the Standard of Cover previously presented was prepared by a few individuals and he would like to see broader participation in the process of finalizing the document. He would like to see representatives of labor,

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management and volunteers participate in the process. President Behnke asked Deputy Chief Donnelley to pass along the comments to the Chief and have him work on finalizing it.

2. Expanded In-House Duty Crew hours – President Behnke asked the Chief and Business Manager to further evaluate staffing options to bring in house duty crew coverage to fruition in light of the Per Diem program being on hold. Commissioner Baugh recommended herself and Commissioner Smith work with the Chief and Business Manager to meet with the labor leaders.
3. Commissioner Powers brought up a request from a senior member of the District to look into expanding the retirement wall and plaques on the third floor started by prior Chief. Deputy Chief Donnelly indicated he would work on it.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Conflict Legal Counsel - Commissioner Baugh made a motion to authorize the hiring of Conflict Legal Counsel. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Powers, and Smith; NAYS: None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: Guerrini.

MEMBERSHIP –None.

GOOD & WELFARE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Behnke opened the Public comment portion of the meeting by asking the public to please raise their hand, stand up at their seat, state your name and address for the record and address the Board. Comments are limited to five minutes per speaker.

1. Todd Young, 222 Woodbine Drive, Marlton asked what the reason was for hiring a conflict legal counsel as we already hired Capehart and Scatchard at the annual reorganization meeting. Solicitor Saginario indicated that he represents the Board in all matters of the District but there are items that could present a conflict to Solicitor Saginario that would require an independent Counsel.

Seeing no public comments President Behnke closed the public comment section at 7:49 pm.

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

President Behnke adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Maureen P. Mitchell
Business Manager