

EVESHAM TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
July 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 7:30 PM. President Behnke welcomed all in attendance and thanked everyone for joining us tonight, especially those families joining us for ceremonial swearing in of lieutenants. 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, Smith and Powers. Also present were: Chief Bittenbender, Deputy Chiefs Donnelly & Freedman, Solicitor Saginario and Business Manager Maureen Mitchell. Commissioner Guerrini was absent.

CEREMONY: SWEARING IN LIEUTENANTS

President Behnke called up Chief Bittenbender and Solicitor Saginario to come forward along with Lieutenants Brinker, Heisler, Merkowsky, and Pierson to administer their Oath of Office.

Solicitor Saginario swore in each Lieutenant individually and their families pinned on their badges.

President and the Board congratulated all of those recognized and sworn in. President Behnke then thanked all the families and friends for coming out to witness this great occasion. He advised that the Board would take a five-minute break to allow families to take photos with the apparatus before continuing with the general business of the board up in the training room.

The President reconvened the regular meeting at 7:47 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

Commissioner Smith made a motion that the minutes of the June 10, 2021 Regular and Executive Session Meeting and June 22, 2021 Special Meeting be approved.

Commissioner Guerrini seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion produced the following result: AYES, Baugh, Behnke, Powers (6.22.21 only) and Smith; NAYS, none; ABSTAINED: Powers (June 10th meetings); ABSENT: Guerrini.

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TREASURER’S REPORT

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

Treasurer's Report for the period ended:

June 30, 2021

Beginning Cash Balance	5,411,413.34
Cash Receipts	212,356.81
Cash Disbursements	<u>(601,366.18)</u>
Ending Cash Balance	<u>5,022,403.97</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 ABSENT: Guerrini

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

BILL LIST

July 8, 2021

ELAN (P-CARD)	\$ 8,490.23
HEARTLAND	455.95
Bill List Dated: 7/8/21	578,143.17
TOTAL PAYMENTS THIS PERIOD	<u>\$ 587,089.35</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 ABSENT: Guerrini

CHIEF’S REPORT - Chief Bittenbender recapped his written report that was previously provided to the Board of Fire Commissioners. Chief updated the Board on the status of the Fourth of July celebrations.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – Solicitor Saginario reported he received a letter from Jim Katz, representing IAFF 4687 and FMBA 115, which would address that in closed Session.

BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT - Ms. Mitchell gave a verbal summary of her report that was previously provided to the Board of Fire Commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA
RESOLUTION

- Resolution No. 2021 – 32 Authorizing the Cancelation of Charges Determined to be Uncollectible
- Resolution No. 2021 – 33 Authorizing the support and participation of Volunteer Tuition Credit Program (P.L. 1998, c. 145)
- Resolution No. 2021 – 34 Authorizing the Refund of Certain Erroneous Payments for EMS Services

Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve Resolutions Number 2021 – 32 through 2021-34. 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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Permission to travel for Deputy Chief Freedman and FF/EMT/Inspector D. Borgstrom to Pierce Manufacturing Appleton, Wisconsin for the pre-construction meeting for the Quint, approximately August 10th-12th.

Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve requested travel. 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

OLD BUSINESS

1. Standard of Cover –Chief Bittenbender indicated that the Standard of Cover was ready for adoption.

Commissioner Baugh made a motion approved and adopt the Standard of Cover. 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 – New Fire Members: Michael Ruby, Jeffery Morse, & Joshua Meddings.

Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the new members. 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

GOOD & WELFARE –

Commissioner Baugh thanked everyone who helped put in the time and effort into the Fireworks and parade on the 4th of July. She was honored to be part of a great event.

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President Behnke thanked the membership for working together to bring the fire duty crew stipend program to fruition. He thanked everyone who stepped up to make it happen.

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. Bruce Albright, 582 Hopewell Road addressed the Board to state he was disturbed to hear that the Kettle Run Station career coverage is being pulled. He thinks this is a mistake and he does not believe in call volume being used as a method of deployment.

Seeing no further public comment President Behnke closed the public comment section.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2021 – 35 Executive Session – Personnel

President Behnke indicated that the board anticipates going into executive session for approximately 45 minutes. The board will not take action when we reconvene in public session.

Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2021 – 30. 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: None; ABSENT: Guerrini

President Behnke adjourned the public portion of the meeting at 8:10 PM.

RETURN TO PUBLIC –President Behnke reconvened the public portion of the meeting at 9:53 PM.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Smith 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 Behnke adjourned the meeting at 9:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen P. Mitchell
Business Manager