

EVESHAM TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
BOARD OF FIRE COMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
November 11, 2021
MINUTES

President 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. Behnke thanked all the Veterans we have in our organization for their dedicated service on this Veteran's Day. He opened the meeting with a flag salute, Pledge of Allegiance, and a 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 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, Guerrini, Powers and Smith. Also present were: Chief Bittenbender, Deputy Chief Freedman and Business Manager Maureen Mitchell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

Commissioner Guerrini made a motion that the minutes of the October 7, 2021, Regular Meeting be approved. Commissioner Baugh seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion produced the following result: AYES, Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, Powers and Smith; NAYS, none; ABSTAINED: none; ABSENT: none

TREASURER'S REPORT

The following report for the month of October 31, 2021, was submitted by the Treasurer for approval:

Treasurer's Report for the period ended:
October 31, 2021

Beginning Cash Balance	4,991,728.11
Cash Receipts	2,897,769.90
Cash Disbursements	<u>(482,508.55)</u>
Ending Cash Balance	<u><u>7,406,989.46</u></u>

Commissioner Guerrini 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: none.

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APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

BILL LIST
November 11, 2021

ELAN (P-CARD)	\$ 6,505.32
Bill List Dated: 11/11/21	710,545.12
Heartland	<u>374.10</u>
 TOTAL PAYMENTS THIS PERIOD	 <u>\$ 717,424.54</u>

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the payment of bills as contained on the Bill List Report. Commissioner Guerrini seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a unanimous roll call vote of all members present ABSENT: none.

CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief Bittenbender recapped his written report that was previously provided to the Board of Fire Commissioners with emphasis on the redeployment of career staff and the replacement of potential vacancies in 2022.

BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT - Ms. Mitchell gave a verbal summary of her report that was previously provided to the Board of Fire Commissioners advising that tonight would be the Public Hearing and the PowerPoint presentation on the 2022 Budget.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

Chief Carl Bittenbender gave a PowerPoint Presentation outlining the 2022 Operating Budget that was approved at the November 11, 2021, Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.

President Behnke thanked the command staff and Board for putting in the time and effort to craft this budget.

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 – 48 Authorizing the Budget to be Read by Title Only

Commissioner Guerrini made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-48. Commissioner Baugh seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, Powers and Smith; NAYS: None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: None.

Resolution No. 2021 – 49 2022 Adopted Budget Resolution

President Behnke read the resolution title and then opened the floor to the public for the public hearing on the Budget.

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Seeing no comments from the Public President Behnke closed the public comment period for the budget.

Commissioner Baugh made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-49. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, and Smith; NAYS: Powers; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution No. 2021 - 50 A Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of a Shared Service Agreement with the Mount Holly Township Fire District No.1

Resolution No. 2021 - 51 Resolution Canceling Certain Purchase Orders

Resolution No. 2021 - 52 Authorizing the Refund of Duplicate Smoke Inspection fee

Resolution No. 2021 - 53 A Resolution Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with the Evesham Township MUA

Resolution No. 2021 - 54 Authorizing Contracts with Certain Approved State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program

Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve Resolutions 2021-50 to 2021-54. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, Powers and Smith; NAYS: None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: None.

Resolution No. 2020 - 78 A Resolution Authorizing Purchase of HVAC Repair and Replacement Under New Jersey State Contract A88695

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2021 - 55 Authorizing the Hiring of Full Time EMT

Commissioner Guerrini made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-55. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, Powers and Smith; NAYS: None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: None.

Resolution No. 2021 - 56 A Resolution Authorizing Certain Budgetary Transfers

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-56. Commissioner Baugh seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, Powers and Smith; NAYS: None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: None.

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Resolution No. 2021 - 57 Resolution Expressing Appreciation for Commissioner Powers

Commissioner Guerrini made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-57. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, Powers and Smith; NAYS: None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: None.

Resolution No. 2021 - 58 Resolution Setting Fee for Reports

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Resolutions 2021-58. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, Powers and Smith; NAYS: None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: None.

Resolution No. 2020 - 78 A Resolution Authorizing Purchase of HVAC Repair and Replacement Under New Jersey State Contract A88695

Resolution No. 2021 - 59 Authorizing the Hiring of Administrative Assistant

Commissioner Guerrini made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-59. Commissioner Baugh seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, Powers and Smith; NAYS: None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. AFG Grant – The Chief advised the Board that the AFG grant period was opening again for applications and he requested permission to apply for a vehicle acquisition to replace the current Brush Truck.

Commissioner Powers made a motion to authorize the submission of the AFG grant application. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, Powers and Smith; NAYS: None; ABSTAINED: None; ABSENT: None.

2. Permission to begin the hiring and promotional processes based on the four potential retirements in 2022 to maintain compliance with the SAFER grant.

Commissioner Guerrini made a motion to approve the start the hiring process. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, Powers and Smith; NAYS, none; ABSTAINED: none; ABSENT, none.

OLD BUSINESS - None

MEMBERSHIP

1. New Fire Members: Joshua Penn - Station 221; John Walsh - Station 223

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Commissioner Guerrini made a motion to approve the new members. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, Powers and Smith; NAYS, none; ABSTAINED: none; ABSENT, none.

2. Termination: Colin Boyce, Tyler Tobin

Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the termination of the two members. Commissioner Guerrini seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the foregoing motion produced the following result: AYES: Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, Powers and Smith; NAYS, none; ABSTAINED: none; ABSENT, none.

GOOD & WELFARE –

Commissioner Powers thanked the Board for the Resolution. He indicated that he is eligible for retirement at work in the next three years so he chose not to run as he didn't want to commit since he wasn't sure if he will still be around this area.

President Behnke reminisced about running for the Board three years ago together with Commissioner Powers and on how they have accomplished a lot over the last three years while navigating a lot of challenges.

Commissioner Baugh acknowledged that it was an honor to server on the Board with Commissioner Powers as he brought a lot of experience to the Board.

Commissioner Guerrini agreed with Commissioner Baugh and President Behnke.

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 noted that a lot of what he has to say is not positive for the people in the south end of town. He disagreed with some of the data that was presented in the Chief's PowerPoint Budget presentation. His recollection is that there are three volunteers who respond from Station 225 and that is not an immediate response in his mind. He indicated that he has been vocal but not disparaging to any member but the same can not be said in return, as he feels he has been trashed by a volunteer publicly to "put up or shut up".
2. Mayor Veasy thanked all the veterans and all the members who have participated in the community events. She also gave her appreciation the Board and Command Staff on the excellent work they put into the 2022 Budget adopted this evening.

Seeing no further public comment President Behnke closed the public comment section at 8:58pm.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Resolution No. 2021 – 60 Executive Session – Contract Negotiations & Personnel

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

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2021 - 60.
Commissioner Baugh seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion produced the following result: AYES, Baugh, Behnke, Guerrini, Powers, and Smith; NAYS, none; ABSTAINED: none; ABSENT, none.

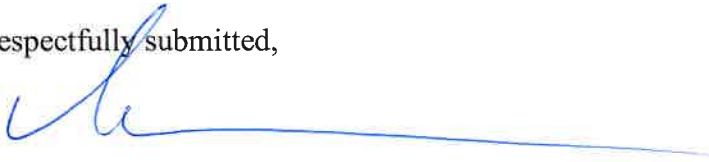
RETURN TO PUBLIC

ADJOURNMENT

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 10:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Maureen P. Mitchell
Business Manager