

**Board of Fire Commissioners  
District 2, Howell Township Fire Company No. 1  
Adelphia, NJ 07710**

February 5, 2024

**REGULAR MEETING**

Notice of time, date, location, and agenda of the meeting, to the extent then known, was duly published in accordance with the requirements of the "Open Public Meeting Act" at least 48 hours in advance of this meeting by posting and by publication in the official newspapers of the district.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Robert Tice, at 8:00 PM.

A Roll call was taken showing George Patten, Frank Biddle III, Robert Tice, Kathleen Carter, and Jeffrey DiGraitis present. The Chairman then led all in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by George Patten and seconded by Kathleen Carter; to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on January 2, 2024, motion carried.

The State of New Jersey released the 2023 Consumer Price Index Factor for LOSAP Programs that have been in effect since 1999. The 2023 increase is 6.9%, or a maximum LOSAP Award of \$2,070.00, for each qualified Firefighter. A resolution was offered by George Patten, and seconded by Kathleen Carter, to our LOSAP Award for qualified Firefighters, to \$2,070.00. A roll call vote was taken.

George Patten	yes
Frank Biddle III	yes
Kathleen Carter	yes
Jeffrey DiGraitis	yes
Robert Tice	yes

The following Vouchers have been submitted for payment.

<b>VOUCHER</b>	<b>LINE #</b>	<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
4919	E7	Corebridge Financial (LOSAP) The above is being paid from the 2023 Budget The 2024 Budget starts below.	84,870.00
4920	A11-1	Monmouth County Treasurer	96.50
4921	A11-2	Shore Business Solutions	23.61
4922	A12-1	Asbury Park Press	353.54
4923	A12-3	Absolute Fire Protection Company, Inc.	660.00
4924	A12-3	Campbell Supply Company	3,284.58
4925	A12-3	Cooper Electric Supply Company	84.48
4926	A12-3	Gear Wash	1,141.78
4927	A12-3	Grainger	462.75

4928	A12-3	TEL X	185.00
4929	A12-3	Van Wickle Auto Supply	362.18
4930	A12-4	Atlantic Medical Group	400.00
4931	A12-4	Richard M. Braslow, Esq.	1,500.00
4932	A12-4	NetLink	199.00
4933	A12-4	Treasurer, State of New Jersey	382.00
4934	A12-6	County Line Power Equipment	308.46
4935	A12-6	ECOLAB, Inc.	1,740.09
4936	A12-6	J Swanton Fuel Oil Company	523.11
4937	A12-7	Central Jersey Compliance Company	300.00
4938	A12-7	Joseph Doyle	697.50
4939	A12-7	James Sellino	104.00
4940	A12-8	JCL&L	1,227.90
4941	A12-8	N. J. American Water	183.71
4942	A12-8	N. J. Natural Gas	3,050.30
4943	A12-8	Verizon	785.45
4944	A12-8	Verizon Wireless	467.99
4945	A12-9	N. J. American Water	12,042.00
4946	A12-9	N. J. American Water	9,011.70
4947	A12-10	EMR Power Systems, LLC	895.50
4948	A12-10	Freehold Cartage, Inc.	144.78
4949	A12-10	Republic Services, #873	149.06
4950	A12-10	Shore Point Fire Protection, LLC	125.00
4951	A12-13	Quill, LLC	1,604.31
Electronic	A9-1	Payroll by Paychex (for Jan. 2024)	3,700.12
Electronic	A9-1	Tax Pay by Paychex (for Jan. 2024)	751.57
Electronic	A9-1	Paychex Fees (deducted 02-10-24)	499.12
Electronic	A9-1	January 2024 PERS/DCRP Payment	285.71
		2023 Total	\$84,870.00
		2024 Total	\$47,732.80
		Grand Total	\$132,602.80

A resolution of the Board of Fire Commissioners of District 2, Howell Township was passed authorizing the payment of vouchers. The resolution was offered by George Patten, seconded by Kathleen Carter, and a roll call vote was taken.

George Patten	yes
Frank Biddle III	yes
Kathleen Carter	yes
Jeffrey DiGraitis	yes
Robert Tice	yes

The resolution, which was duly adopted on this day, is attached to minutes.

## **Communications**

We received several e-mails from the State Division of Pensions, which will be on file. We also received several e-mails from the State GovConnect, which will be on file. We received a Certified Letter, from the Township of Howell, stating that the Monmouth County Board of Elections has chosen not to include our Route 33 Fire Station as a polling place for future elections. We received a check for an OPRA request from Peter Goldring. The check, in the amount of \$7.00, was received on January 27, 2024, and deposited on January 29, 2024.

We mailed a check to Wireless Electronics on January 3, 2024. This check was for our share of contract for the upkeep of the Howell Township Fire Radio System. Wireless Electronic returned the check stating that Fire District 5 paid the entire amount. That check will be voided. We received a packet, from the Monmouth County Superintendent of Elections, with everything we will need for the February Fire District Election. Forms were filled out and returned with all the information the County requested.

We received an email, from the New Jersey DCA, that our 2024 Fire District Budget has been approved. We now have a total of four (4) petitions for the Office of Commissioner for the February 17, 2024, Fire District Election and Budget Referendum. The four names are Frank E, Biddle III, Jeffrey DiGraitis, Peter Goldring, and Vincenzo Guida.

We have been in talks with Pellegrino Chevrolet about specs for the voter approved New Chief's Command Vehicle. The Dealer, without our approving, placed the order for the vehicle. They said that if we did not take it, someone else would. We will need to decide in the next month or so what we plan to do. Frank said that we would have info on any co-op that they may belong to at the next meeting.

We received a check, from VALIC, which is returned LOSAP monies for a Firefighter that left the Fire Company before becoming vested. The check, in the amount of \$1,885.74, was received and deposited on February 5, 2024. We received a Service Report, from EMR Power Systems, for a repair call we asked for the Emergency Generator at the Route 524 Fire Station. The Generator had a tough time starting during a recent power outage. We received two (2) Fire Alarm Inspection Service Reports, from Complete Security Systems, for the two annual inspections of both Fire Stations. Copies of these reports were forwarded to the Township Fire Bureau.

## **Legal**

Bob said that the Township of Howell is not interested in completing a lease agreement with Fire District 2 for the New Radio Tower at the Route 33 Fire Station. Talks have been going on for several months with no outcome in sight. The latest amount we asked for was \$5,000.00 annually. That would include the space the New Tower would be installed on, the use of our complete Electrical Room and the use of our Emergency Generator when needed.

Frank asked permission to post a message on the Fire District Facebook Page explaining the 2024 Fire District Budget and the increase over past years Budgets. The Board agreed with the posting.

## **Chief's Report**

Chief Tim McKay gave his incident report for January 2024. The Chief said that they have not had any luck securing rooms for FDIC 2024. Chief McKay said that he found an AIR

BNB just down the street from the convention center for \$5,455.00 for the week. The unit would sleep all six Firefighters. The Chief also asked to purchase the following items.

1) Twenty (20) H41 Interceptor Hoods, from Firefighter One, for a total of \$3,245.00. These are on State Contract #17-FLEET-00811-Fire Dex.

2) Two (2) sets of Energy Tech Rescue Coat/Pants, from SAFE-T, for a total of \$3,430.04. These are on State Contract #17-FLEET-00833.

3) Two (2) sets of Morning Pride LTO48Z3 Coat/Pants, from SAFE-T, for a total of \$10,426.86. These are on State Contract #17-FLEET-00810.

4) Two (2) pairs of Haix Eagle Air Leather Structural Firefighter Boots, from SAFE-T, for a total of \$860.86. These are on State Contract #17-FLEET-00809.

After some discussion, a resolution was offered by George Patten, and seconded by Jeffrey DiGraitis, approving the AIR BNB, including the airfare and classes as needed for the six Firefighters, and the personal protection equipment described. A roll call vote was taken.

George Patten	yes
Frank Biddle III	yes
Kathleen Carter	yes
Jeffrey DiGraitis	yes
Robert Tice	yes

## **Committees**

Frank gave a report on the trucks and equipment as follows.

1) Absolute came back out to repair a few things on 2-90.

2) Campbell Supply came out and repaired the Foam System on 2-78. The truck was out of service for several days while parts were being machined.

3) Campbell also worked on the left side 120-volt quartz lights on 2-78.

4) The truck committee met with New Jersey Emergency Vehicles about the replacement of the 2-96 Tractor. They seem interested in building this unit.

5) The onboard battery charger on 2-75 stopped working. Campbell Supply removed the unit and sent it out for repair. A shop battery charger will be hooked up to the truck while we wait for the truck charger to come back.

6) TELX came out and repaired several phones at the Route 33 Fire Station.

7) The fuel meter on the diesel pump at the Route 33 Fire Station stopped working. A new meter was purchased from Grainger and will be installed.

8) One sixteen-foot Roof Ladder failed inspection on 2-90. That ladder has been removed from the truck while a decision is made on a replacement.

Bob asked some questions about the Radio Programming that will need to be completed when the New Radio Upgrades are complete. Bob said that the five Fire Districts should program their radio the same, at least the first couple banks.

Bob asked where we were with the Route 33 Entrance Warning Light. George said that the State is still waiting on a diagram of the pre-emption system.

## Old Business

George said that we have signed the contract with Foley Power Systems for the replacement Emergency Generator at the Route 524 Fire Station. He said that we are waiting to give them the go ahead until the 2024 Fire District Budget passes. The contract price for this job is \$196,928.00 and is being purchased through Sourcewell.

Frank said that we have ordered the New Aerial Platform Truck from Absolute. The contract price for this vehicle is \$2,310,053.00 and being purchased through HGAC.

## New Business

Katie said that Access Health has June 19, 2024, scheduled for our Firefighter Physicals. Frank said that the 2015 Chief's Vehicle needs new tires. Service Tire Truck Centers has given us a quote of \$1,009.68 for the tires, mounting, and balancing. We received a quote, from Clean Air Company, for the annual inspection and service of the vehicle exhaust systems at both Fire Stations. The total quote is for \$1,764.50. We also received a quote, from Firefighter One, for the annual testing of our 43 SCBA's. The quote is for \$1,935.00. We received a quote from Industrial Inspection & Analysis (Fail Safe Testing), for our annual hose testing. The quote is for \$4,787.78, based on the total footage from last year. After some discussion, a resolution was offered by Bob Tice, and seconded by Katie Carter, to contract with Access Health, Service Tire Truck Centers, Clean Air Company, Firefighter One, and IIA. A roll call vote was taken.

George Patten	yes
Frank Biddle III	yes
Kathleen Carter	yes
Jeffrey DiGraitis	yes
Robert Tice	yes

George gave a report on the 2023 Fire District Budget and what was left. The total 2023 Surplus is \$276,440.44.

Bob asked if we could move the March meeting back to Tuesday, March 5, 2024, because he would be away. After some discussion, and we other members not available for the Tuesday meeting, the March meeting will go on as planned. Bob also asked about moving all future meetings up to 7:00 PM, with all members in agreement.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.