

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

November 3, 2025

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 7:00 PM.

A Roll call was taken showing George Patten, Frank Biddle III, Robert Tice, Peter Goldring, and Carmelo LaMarca present. The Chairman then led all in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairman conducted the swearing in of newly appointed Commissioner Carmelo LaMarca. A motion was made by Frank Biddle III, and seconded by Peter Goldring, to have Mr. LaMarca serve as Vice-Chairman at least until the re-organization meeting in March.

A motion was made by George Patten and seconded by Peter Goldring; to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on October 6, 2025, motion carried.

The following Vouchers have been submitted for payment.

VOUCHER	LINE #	VENDOR	AMOUNT
1068	E9-CAP	(2025 Utility) Winner Ford	12,728.10
1069	A11-2	Amazon	896.40
1070	A12-3	Alpine Software	600.00
1071	A12-3	Brothers Landscaping	950.00
1072	A12-3	Campbell Supply Company	2,041.29
1073	A12-3	Continental Fire & Safety, Inc.	3,071.24
1074	A12-3	Defender Emergency Products, LLC	1,253.64
1075	A12-3	ESI Equipment, Inc.	43,610.00
1076	A12-3	Fitness Lifestyles, Inc.	250.00
1077	A12-3	IAR, Emergency Services Marketing Corp.	809.10
1078	A12-3	Mickey Truck Bodies	10,950.00
1079	A12-3	MyFleetCenter.com	349.10
1080	A12-3	Chris Pujat	65.00
1081	A12-3	Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc.	4,319.02
1082	A12-4	Atlantic Medical Group	200.00
1083	A12-4	Richard M. Braslow, Esq.	1,500.00
1084	A12-4	NetLink	274.00
1085	A12-6	Allied Diesel Service, Inc.	27.98

1086	A12-6	J. Swanton Fuel Oil Company	547.19
1087	A12-7	County of Monmouth, Finance Department	200.00
1088	A12-7	U. S. Bank Corporate Payment Systems	6,272.47
1089	A12-8	JCP&L	1,610.08
1090	A12-8	N. J. American Water	306.68
1091	A12-8	N. J. Natural Gas	678.88
1092	A12-8	Verizon	922.40
1093	A12-8	Verizon Business	420.79
1094	A12-9	N. J. American Water	13,961.49
1095	A12-9	N. J. American Water	10,098.99
1096	A12-10	Freehold Cartage, Inc.	366.01
Electronic	A9-1	Payroll by Paychex (for Oct. 2025)	3,758.86
Electronic	A9-1	Tax Pay by Paychex (for Oct. 2025)	906.00
Electronic	A9-1	Paychex Fees (deducted 11-10-25)	188.29
Electronic	A9-1	October 2025 PERS/DCRP Payment	300.52
2025 Budget			\$111,705.42
E-9 Capital Total			\$12,728.10
Grand Total of November Bills			\$124,433.52

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 Peter Goldring, and a roll call vote was taken.

George Patten	yes
Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	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 recall for our Trailer Mounted Genie Lift. Frank called United Rental; our local authorized Genie Dealer and asked them to get the recall started. They have since placed an order for the needed parts. We received a check, from Glatfelter Insurance Group, for the removal of the 2011 Chevrolet Suburban from our Vehicle Policy. The check, in the amount of \$750.00, was received and deposited on October 9, 2025.

We received a statement from the State of New Jersey Motor Vehicle Services for all abstract retrievals completed in September 2025. We received a letter, from District Compliance, aka NetLink, explaining upgrades that they will be implementing to our website. These will include accessibility upgrades as will be required on all public entity websites, including Fire Districts.

Legal

George said that it was time for the introduction of the Proposed 2026 Fire District Budget. George read the Proposed Budget as follows.

Total 2026 Budget	\$2,482,840.00
Less from Surplus	-\$493,840.00
Less from Capital Reserve	-\$250,000.00
Total to be Raised by Taxation	\$1,739,000.00

After a brief discussion, a resolution was offered by Peter Goldring, and seconded by George Patten, Formally Introducing the 2026 Fire District Budget as read. A roll call vote was taken.

George Patten	yes
Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

We will have to hold a Special Meeting, sometime before the Public Hearing and Adoption of the 2026 Fire District Budget, to gain voter approval for the \$250,000.00 in Capital Appropriation for maintenance and upgrades to both Fire Stations and Grounds. A resolution was offered by George Patten, and seconded by Frank Biddle III, to pick a date and schedule the Special Meeting that would work for everyone, and also to schedule the Public Hearing and Adoption for December 1, 2025. A roll call vote was taken.

George Patten	yes
Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

Peter said that Absolute Fire Protection has agreed to accept \$10,000.00 as payment for the started, but not finished, bucket for the 1997 E-One Aerial Truck. They have been sending us invoices for \$39,000.00 since the middle of last year. After some discussion, a resolution was offered by Peter Goldring, and seconded by Bob Tice, to pay Absolute Fire Protection \$10,000.00 and put an end to this saga. A roll call vote was taken.

George Patten	yes
Frank Biddle III	no
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

Chief's Report

Chief Tim McKay gave his incident report for the month of October 2025. The Chief would like to purchase the following items.

1) Three (3) 100-foot lengths of Key 5-inch hose from Continental Fire & Safety for a total of \$2,915.00, which includes freight.

2) An assortment of Conway helmet frontals, to fit our Cairns 1010 helmets, for the upcoming changes to the Fire Company Line of Officers, from Continental Fire & Safety for a total of \$2,113.00, which includes shipping.

A resolution was offered by Bob Tice, and seconded by George Patten, to make these purchases from Continental. A roll call vote was taken.

George Patten	yes
Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

Committees

Bob gave a report on the Howell Radio upgrade saying that things are still moving along.

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

1) Defender came out and replaced the three (3) intake bleeder valves on 2-78. They also said that the HVAC Unit for 2-78 is still in production.

2) The Trailer for 2-96 was completed at Mickey Truck Bodies and is back in service. As of now Marco will not need the trailer to mate up to the New Tractor till closer to the end of the year or early 2026.

3) The final inspection of the new 2-90 will be November 12, 13, and 14, 2025. Six (6) members of the Truck Committee will be attending.

4) Both 2-66 and 2-68 had their vehicles serviced at Jiffy Lube.

5) We will be scheduling 2-66's vehicle for tire replacement before winter gets here.

6) Pump and Ground Ladder Testing is scheduled for November 20, 2025.

7) 19-1-91 helped to repair the flagpole at the Route 33 Fire Station. Frank said that we could use some spare parts and more flags, as he used the last one.

8) Frank will be going to Winner Ford to pick up all the emergency lights for the new 2-88. New Jersey Emergency Vehicle, which was to complete the upgrade for this vehicle, now apologizes after shutting down their utility vehicle line. We will now be asking East Coast Emergency Lighting to schedule the upgrade.

9) We signed up Freehold Cartage to start dumpster service at the Route 33 Fire Station. Republic's price kept going up. We will be saving around \$50.00 a month.

A resolution was offered by George Patten, and seconded by Peter Goldring, to purchase the spare hardware and flags needed from Kempton Flag. A roll call vote was taken.

George Patten	yes
Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

Bob said that we should auction off the old 2-88 now and put the new 2-88 in service. A brief discussion followed.

Old Business

Peter said that the MDT installation started today. He said that we will need an additional \$25,000.00 to complete our end of the Radio Upgrade. We will be going through the Hunterdon County Co-Op for the purchase. This will be coming out of the Capital Project for Radios. A resolution was offered by Bob Tice, and seconded by Peter Goldring, to make these needed purchases from PMC Wireless. A roll call vote was taken.

George Patten	yes
Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

George said that he has read over all the rules we will need to follow for using the Grant for which we were approved. He thinks that it would be in our best interest to hire Firehouse Grants to oversee the Grant project. The quote that we received was for \$5,000.00 annually, payable quarterly at \$1,500.00. A resolution was offered by George Patten, and seconded by Bob Tice, to enter into this contract with Firehouse Grants. A roll call vote was taken.

George Patten	yes
Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

Bob asked what we were doing with the Firefighter Physicals in the future. A lot of discussion followed with no outcome as of yet.

New Business

The Chief said that twenty-three (23) Firefighters qualified for the \$10.00 pay per call, which ran from November 1, 2024, to October 31, 2025. The total cost for all Firefighters is \$41,110.00. A resolution was offered by Bob Tice, and seconded by Peter Goldring, to issue checks for these twenty-three (23) Firefighters at the December 1, 2025, meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

George Patten	yes
Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

Lots of talk followed about the pay per call program.

Frank said that we received a new contract, from ESI Equipment, for the service of all our Rescue Tools. The cost of this contract is \$2,594.00 and runs from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026. A resolution was offered by Bob Tice, and seconded by George Patten, to enter into this contract with ESI Equipment. A roll call vote was taken.

George Patten	yes
Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

Peter said that one of the consolets needs to be reprogrammed to work properly. He would like to get both consolets reprogrammed with the latest software upgrades. The cost of this would be around \$1,500.00. A resolution was offered by George Patten, and seconded by Peter Goldring, to have both consolets upgraded. A roll call vote was taken.

George Patten	yes
Frank Biddle III	yes
Peter Goldring	yes
Carmelo LaMarca	yes
Robert Tice	yes

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.